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Calgary metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, APRIL 17-19, 2015 | High 22°C/Low 2°C Mostly sunny

LAST MALE STANDING
metronews

See him at the Comic Expo

Actor Neil Patrick Harris was announced Thursday as a special guest at this year's Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo. Story in News. CONTRIBUTED

Student bus rides drag on

EDUCATION

Many spend two hours on them during school days

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Thousands of students being shuttled to school programs spend more than two hours a day on the bus and there are fears that cuts to provincial transportation funding could lead to even longer commutes.

Data provided by the Calgary Board of Education for the month of December indicates 13 per cent of students riding yellow buses — 3,476 learners to be exact — spend more than an hour on the road each way and another 13 per cent spend somewhere between 45 to 60 minutes on each one-way trip to and from school.

Darlene Unruh, the CBE's director of planning and transportation, said the commute times have been on an upward trend in recent years. But she noted, too, the bulk of students whose commutes eclipse the board's target of 30 minutes each way are attending alternative programs.

Just 31 students whose bus rides extend over the two-hour mark are actually attending the school they were designated to attend.

"It's increasing, and it's increasing because we're finding we have to bus students from our new and developing communities which are, of course, further away from the schools they're wishing to go to," Unruh said.

Now, with suburban student growth expected to surge again for the 2015-16 school year, especially in the deep south, the province has trimmed transportation funding by 1.4 per cent. It's the first hit the CBE will take to its busing grant in at least five years.

While it's not yet clear if parents will pay more or whether there will be service reductions, bus providers say they're already struggling to keep pace.

"The school boards need to go back to the drawing board is what it comes down to ... it's going to be interesting on the routing for the fall," said Mike Stiles, assistant location and safety manager for First Student Canada.

The cut is "huge," he added, "especially considering the CBE is the largest customer we have."

Parents, experts weigh in on whether prolonged bus rides are worth it. See story page 18.

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	42136	LT - Coupe Rally Sport Pkg	$35,945	$26,858
	42138	2SS - Convertible Rally Sport Pkg	$56,745	$45,970
	42139	2SS - Coupe Spring Special Edition	$54,090	$43,362
	42144	LT - Coupe Spring Special Edition	$35,945	$26,858
	CRUZE			
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	42450	LTZ - RS Pkg	$32,325	$24,156
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IN BRIEF

Road signs pushing Flames fever

The Calgary roads department is hoping Flames fanatics will participate in a game of "I spy" this weekend.

On Wednesday, crews put up eight road signs — not to yield or stop — but to cheer on the Flames.

Though they haven't divulged the locations yet, they did let Metro in on the secret: Two are near city hall and the rest can be found in the Saddledome area.

The signs were left over from one of the last Red Mile stints.

If you come across a sign, tweet a photo to @Metrocalgary.

You'll also find full Flames coverage at metronews.ca over the weekend, as the team takes on the Canucks in Vancouver for Game 2 and then returns to the Saddledome Sunday for Game 3 in the first-round NHL playoff series. METRO

A photo of the Calgary Flames traffic signs. TWITTER

Noisy nights worth return of Red Mile

17TH AVENUE

Area residents welcome city's first Cup bid since '09

Morgan Modjeski
Metro | Calgary

Concerns about noise along Calgary's bustling 17th Avenue have already surfaced after the Calgary Flames' recent 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Canucks, but some say the rowdy resurrection is welcome.

Kate Jones, chair of the Beltline social environment committee, which works on improving safety in the community, said a few noisy nights are something residents should expect.

"I think that's part of the deal when you move somewhere that is more dense and is definitely closer to the night life," she said.

She said some residents may be surprised by the noise, as the Flames haven't been in the playoffs since 2009, but she considers the atmosphere on the "Red Mile" a plus.

"There's a sense of pride going on in the city and I think that's a positive," she said, noting Calgary Flames fans are "relatively tame" when compared to cities like Montreal.

Paul Desilets who lives near the intersection of 17 Avenue and 14 Street SW said the noise is nothing new.

"I've lived here for five years," he said. "So it's just a little bit noisier for a couple of nights a week."

John Manzo, a 51-year-old Bankview resident, said he misses the celebrations of 2004 when the Flames faced off against the Canucks in round one of the NHL post season.

"It hasn't bothered me," he said. "I don't want to sort of tempt fate by putting it this way, but I look forward to it."

"We haven't had anything like this for quite a few years and I can put up with the energy for a while," he said, but added his excitement may be dependent on the length of the team's playoff bid.

"If you ask me again in two months — if we're still in the playoffs —I might be a little less patient, but right now I'm looking forward to it."

The Calgary Flames next NHL playoff game takes place on Friday in Vancouver.

Paul Desilets, who lives near the intersection of 17 Avenue and 14 Street SW, said the popular east-west strip is noisy to begin with but notes the increased noise when it transforms into the "Red Mile" after Flames games is only temporary. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

RED MILE

Three tips to handle any playoff rowdiness

1. Get involved! The Flames don't make the playoffs every year.
2. Buy some decent earplugs; they may save you from a hockey headache.
3. Be prepared! Take note of a few good quiet spots for rest and reflection.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Calgary's post-game hangover

Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Coffee, Advil and hating the universe is how one Calgary Flames fan described working with an extreme hangover Thursday morning.

Like most hockey-lovers across the city, Cameron Johnston spent Wednesday evening (and most the of the day) slamming back drinks in celebration of the Flames' first playoff game.

Unable to call in sick for work, Johnston said working Thursday morning at a retail job was one of the worst he's ever had.

"I had to talk to people all day while smelling like a brewery," Johnston said. "Of course when the game is on, one beer turns into two, the Flames score and the shots start flowing..."

Melanie Peacock, a certified human resource professional and associate professor at Mount Royal University, said despite the excitement of the Flames finally being in the playoffs after six years, showing up drunk or hungover to work isn't exactly what most employers would consider acceptable.

"We actually had similar conversations with people staying up late when the Olympics were on," Peacock said. "But businesses still expect professionals to perform their job — you don't want people coming to work when they're not well, and being hungover is a form of not being well."

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NEWMAN

Major crimes involved in disappearance case

The case of missing woman Jessica Newman has now been turned over to the Calgary Police Service's major crimes unit.

A letter sent to the 24-year-old's mother, Rhonda Stewart, from Det. Dave Sweet on Thursday explained detectives from the major crimes unit "have gathered a great deal of information" about Newman, her life and possible reasons for her disappearance.

"I'm happy that they're putting their resources into finding Jessica," Stewart told Metro.

Sweet also asks Rhonda to share the letter with "those who have supported you and your family through this ordeal."

While most of the letter is directed at Stewart, one of the last paragraphs appears to directly address anyone who has knowledge about Jessica's whereabouts.

"If you are a person reading this who is involved or has knowledge of Jessica's whereabouts, I want to personally extend this thought to you: Jessica's case is not going away," the letter reads.

Jessica Newman CONTRIBUTED

"Many people have made the mistake of thinking that they can mislead investigators and escape responsibility. My best advice to you is to do what is right and contact police."

Stewart said she hopes the letter will yield results in the search for Jessica.

"I hope that person is scared and comes forward. I really hope they take it seriously and just confess."

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Transit making the most of Twitter

SOCIAL MEDIA

8 workers responsible for connecting with riders

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

With Calgary Transit's vast network of routes and train lines, things can happen in a flash. If you aren't following them on Twitter, you may just miss out on what's up.

Transit has invested in a crew of online gurus opting to share their message — including on-the-fly changes and delays — with customers over social media instead of through more traditional methods.

"Twitter's been very successful for us; we have over 56,000 followers," said Ron Collins, spokesperson for Calgary Transit. "It allows us to provide that one-on-one dialogue with folks who have questions."

Collins said that up to eight workers are checking the Twittersphere every shift, responding to concerns, complaints and compliments. They're trained to be courteous and helpful and never to guess on policy, and they complement the call centre, website, tele-ride, tele-text, real-time information and the roughly 5,000 people signed up for email alerts.

A quick analysis of Calgary Transit's Twitter shows they are highly invested in conveying their message to riders with 140 characters. The peak volume tweeting periods coincide with when riders are most likely on transit — 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. — showing most tweets and replies happen during rush hour.

Some of their most common terms found in tweets include the words sorry, delay and thank you, and the number 1,000.

"On occasion, because you're limited in terms of word use on Twitter, sometimes we'll ask the person to call in," said Collins.

He added they encourage people to sign up and follow on Twitter since that's where customers can expect by-the-minute updates if there are bus or C-Train delays.

Although some criticize Calgary Transit for not posting route changes physically along stops, Collins said with a network so vast and with many stops, physical postings just aren't viable.

With the newly minted smartphone app, he added that changes are on the way, hopefully making it easier for transit to push notifications to users on the fly instead of having users check their website for delays and updates.

Until then, Twitter still rules their communication roost.

Calgary Transit uses Twitter as their main way to communicate with riders on the fly.
HELEN PIKE/METRO

BY THE NUMBERS

— Transit tweets about 56 times a day, and an average of over 1,500 per month.
— Last December, they tweeted over 3,000 times.
— Calgary Transit has tweeted "delay" or "delays" 5,134 times, or in about 6.7 per cent of total tweets.
— "Thanks" has 9,624 mentions (12.5 per cent).
— The word "sorry" comes in at 2,500 mentions (3.2 per cent).
— In total, transit has tweeted 76,800 times.

CRIME

Police recover stolen rifle

A police-issue rifle stolen from the vehicle of an off-duty officer 12 days ago has been recovered.

On Thursday, Sgt. Jason Walker with the Calgary Police Service's guns and gangs unit said the rifle, a semi-automatic C8, was recovered from a northeast residence during a recent search.

Details were limited, but Walker said police were targeting the weapon during the search and while no charges have been laid, police are happy to have it returned.

"We're relieved that we got this thing back," said Walker.

"We're not proud we're relieved because we get that we lost more than the rifle when it was taken. There were some trust and confidence issues there, and a big part of this was both getting the rifle back and working to restore the trust and confidence."

Police thanked the public for tips that had poured in since the rifle was reported missing.

Officers are still looking for the drivers of a vehicle that was temporarily blocked by a suspect vehicle outside Schanks Sports Bar in the 0-100 block of Crowfoot Terrace NW from 10:45 to 11 p.m. on April 4.

The officer who left the patrol rifle remains suspended with pay and both a criminal and internal investigation into the theft are underway.

Witnesses or anyone with information about the incident are asked to contact police at 403-266-1234, the guns and gang unit at 403-428-8664 or Crime Stoppers to report the info anonymously.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

NeighbourLink Calgary volunteers, executives and the lone remaining employee at the non-profit's warehouse on Thursday afternoon. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Non-profit down to one employee

NEIGHBOURLINK CALGARY

Charity still open thanks to help of ex-staff volunteers

Morgan Modjeski
Metro | Calgary

An organization providing thousands of Calgary residents with some of the most basic necessities has undergone extensive layoffs but it won't be closing its doors anytime soon.

NeighbourLink Calgary has laid off 12 staff members since March, and now, with only one staff member remaining, those who lost their jobs are working in a volunteer capacity to get the organization back on track.

Former executive director — now volunteering — Melissa Nelson said a number of factors contributed to the layoffs. However, she notes the fact that some for-profit renters leasing parts of the organization's facility were unable to follow through due to the economic downturn has left the organization with a "very large shortfall."

"With that news facing us," she said, "we began looking at how to take austerity measures … not unlike anybody else in our province.

"Everybody is feeling the same crunch."

> **Our No. 1 goal is to be here for our clients.**
> Nikki Golnik, NeighbourLink Calgary's only remaining employee

The future of NeighbourLink will be discussed further at a board of directors meeting on Thursday night. The sole employee, director of operations Nikki Golnik, said she'd continue on as best as possible.

"I'm just willing to pick up the pieces and do as much as I can to still keep us going," she said. "Our No. 1 goal is to be here for the clients."

NeighbourLink helps those battling poverty by ensuring access to housing and child-care essentials: everything from baby formula and cribs to household furniture.

NeighbourLink is now asking for assistance from the public with a crowd-funding campaign to try to address the shortfall.

While the site is being established, donations can be made directly to NeighbourLink Calgary or through canadahelps.org.

One client named Perry, who wouldn't provide Metro with his last name, said he couldn't imagine what his life would be like without NeighbourLink, as the agency has helped him through numerous hard times.

"If it wasn't for them, I don't even want to think where me and my family would be," he said, noting he would do anything he could to help the organization in its time of need.

"They've been huge.... They've given me strength when I didn't have the strength, so I'm really grateful for that."

BRIGHT SKIES

Bylaw has yet to curb light pollution

Two years after Calgary enacted its "Bright Skies" bylaw aimed at cutting down on light pollution, city officials say it hasn't resulted in any major changes.

But Coun. Brian Pincott — who brought forward the bylaw in 2013 in an effort to reduce the amount of "light spill" going skyward or onto properties adjacent to the intended target of a light fixture — said that's just about what he expected from the new rules, at this point.

"It was never a change … that was automatically going to change the world," Pincott said, noting all existing light fixtures in the city were "grandfathered in."

The bylaw amended the city's master planning document to specifically call for "minimizing the intensity of light sources and directing light only to where it is needed" in the design of buildings, parking lots, pathways and open spaces.

Darrell Sargent, co-ordinator of citywide and regional strategies within the city's planning department, said the new rules add "extra weight" to the design of lighting fixtures when development-permit applications are being considered.

"It brings it to the top of mind that we need to be aware of incorporating these sorts of elements into any development of a particular site or a wider area," Sargent said.

Roads spokeswoman Anna Melnick said the city's ongoing retrofit of 90,000 streetlights from high-pressure sodium bulbs to light-emitting diode (LED) technology also incorporates measures to reduce light spill.

Each LED streetlight "can be controlled to light a specific area below, meaning less light is lost and sky glow is reduced," she said.

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HEALTH

Cancer centre a need, not a want: Patient

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

For Jenn Birchall, there's only one election issue this year: hospitals.

Since being diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer in 2009, she has spent more hours than she can count travelling to doctor's appointments and standing in waiting rooms that look like storage closets. Now, she says she says she's had enough — she wants a comprehensive cancer centre in Calgary, and she wants it soon.

"I'm just so frustrated, because it's a need not a want," she said. "And I'm not overstating it to say that this is a matter of life or death."

Tensions have been running high since the Tory government announced a plan last month to build a two-site model for a new Calgary cancer centre.

Phase one of the new proposed plan would include a cancer centre at the South Health Campus, with further plans to expand the existing Tom Baker Cancer Centre.

Original plans to build a comprehensive cancer treatment centre at Foothills Medical Centre were slated to cost $1.3 billion and be complete by 2016, but the plan was put on a permanent hiatus in 2014.

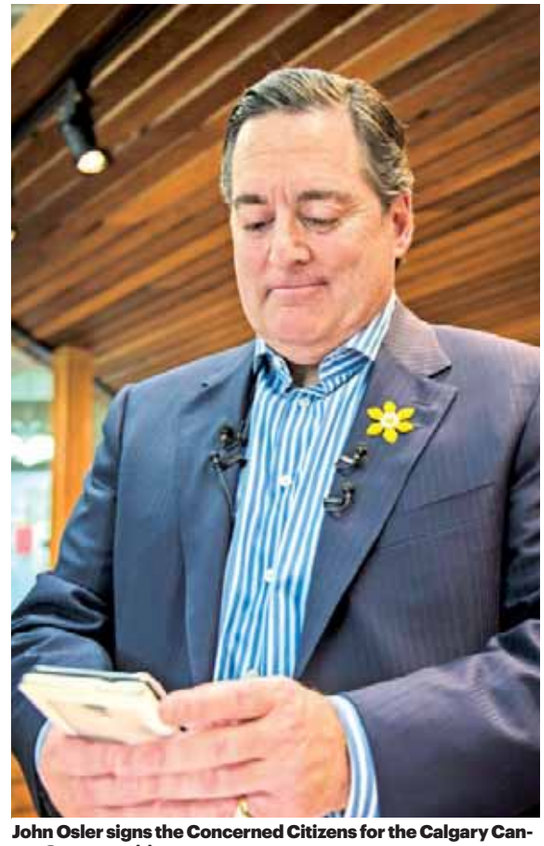
The new plan prompted the Concerned Citizens for the Calgary Cancer Centre (C5) to release a petition on Thursday afternoon, urging the government to reinstate the original comprehensive plan.

"Premier Jim Prentice and the minister of health Stephen Mandel … have let Calgary down in a major fashion," said John Osler, a C5 representative.

"A promise was made in 2013 to Calgary families stricken with cancer that they would receive a world-class comprehensive cancer centre … but weeks ago that promise was broken again, and that's when they proposed a renovation of the Calgary south campus that offers nothing more than a medical clinic in a strip mall."

According to Osler, $20 million and two years of planning went into creating the Foothills cancer centre, and he says he wants to see the government build it now instead of "walking away" from decades of review.

"We believe that it's not too late for the government to change its mind," said Osler, urging the PCs to "go back and make the right decisions for Calgarians."



John Osler signs the Concerned Citizens for the Calgary Cancer Centre petition. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

IN BRIEF

David Swann says it's time to talk co-operation

Alberta Liberal Leader David Swann says he wants to talk co-operation with other "progressive" opposition parties right after the May 5 election.

Swann told reporters in Calgary that he has been trying to push some sort of agreement with the NDP and, more recently, the Alberta Party for the last four years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prentice renews attack on Wildrose fiscal plan

Progressive Conservative Leader Jim Prentice is renewing his attack on the Wildrose fiscal plan which he says simply won't work.

The incumbent premier says there is no way the Opposition party can do what it says it will do without making significant cuts to frontline staff. Prentice continues to call for specifics on which services would be cut and which building projects would be delayed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pockets get deeper during election

POLITICS

NDP sees rise in fundraising, but PCs have the most green

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

The Progressive Conservatives ride into this election with a veritable pile of cash, but the real surprise is that the NDP seems to have made it rain this year.

Elections Alberta released first-quarter financial numbers Thursday, and they show the PCs raised $825,318, just a slight increase from the same time last year. The NDP, on the other hand, raised $406,883, well up from just $124,000 in the same period last year.

Bob Murray, the vice-president of policy with the Frontier Centre, said the PCs' gains were expected. "This was one of the big appeals of Jim Prentice. He is able to get donations. He re-invigorated the party," he said.

Murray said the NDP surge has a lot to do with a lack of other options on the left of the political spectrum. "People are looking for a progressive alternative, and realistically the only one there is the NDP," he said.

BIG DONORS

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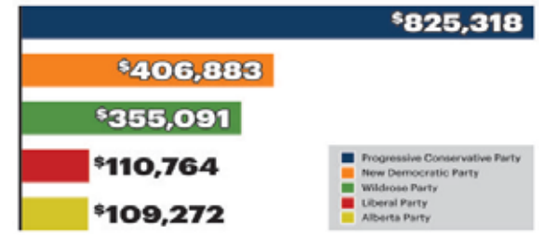
PCs. Stanley Milner: $15,000
Wildrose. G. Arnell: $15,000



Funds raised in the first quarter of the year by the five major political parties in Alberta. JAMES WHITMAN/METRO

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WILDROSE

Party must support diversity: Advocate

A day after the Wildrose Party ejected candidate Russ Kuykendall for his blog that accused "gay activists" of pushing their agenda on churches, an LGBT advocate said the party needs to do more.

In 2007, Kuykendall, the now former Wildrose candidate for Calgary–Varsity, wrote on the Western Standard's blog about a pride brunch in the city and accused organizers of trying to provoke a reaction by holding it at the St. Andrew's Centre, which is connected to a church.

Upon hearing of the post, Wildrose Leader Brian Jean immediately ejected Kuykendall.

Kris Wells, director of the Institute for Sexual Minorities Studies and Services, said Jean's response is a basic first step but would like to see more support for diversity in the party's policies.

Wildrose Leader Brian Jean THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **It's one thing to simply get rid of candidates; it is another to incorporate those values in your party principles.**
> Kris Wells, of the Institute for Sexual Minorities Studies and Services

"It's one thing to simply get rid of candidates; it is another to incorporate those values in your party principles."

But Bob Murray, vice-president of research at the Frontier Centre, said Jean's move was politically astute.

"You don't want to keep these people around, because they're ultimately poisonous come election time."

In the 2012 campaign, former Wildrose leader Danielle Smith faced criticism when she refused to toss Edmonton candidate Allan Hunsperger for his blog post that warned Satan was setting a "trap" for gays and they would suffer in a "lake of fire." RYAN TUMILITY/METRO

IN BRIEF

Quirky new ad campaign urging Albertans to vote

Everyone from tofu eaters to turtleneck-sweater lovers are being encouraged to have their say in a new video promoting the 2015 Alberta election.

The 40-second ad, produced by Elections Alberta, encourages citizens to "decide for yourself" when it comes to casting a ballot on May 5.

The video features middle-aged men in various settings, one who is in the process of doing everyday activities — buying groceries, working out — and another who intervenes with his own preferences.

"I prefer to kick it up a notch," he says at one point, before boosting the speed of his friend's treadmill.

METRO

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PC candidate charges he was wrongly disqualified

SWORN STATEMENTS

Balraj Manhas 'coerced' to take name off ballot, he says

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

A disqualified Progressive Conservative candidate has sent sworn statements from 27 supporters to party officials in a bid to show he met the requirements to contest the nomination in Edmonton-Ellerslie.

The documents, which were obtained by Metro this week, each contain a name, signature, address and some have a phone number. All were notarized on either Feb. 18 or 19.

It was on Feb. 18 that Balraj Manhas, president of the United Cabbies Association, claims he was informed by party officials that he could either withdraw his bid for the Ellerslie nomination or be disqualified as his papers lacked the required 25 signatures.

Manhas said he felt "coerced" into taking his name off the ballot and only did so on the promise of a full investigation by the party. His decision led to the acclamation of incumbent Naresh Bhardwaj as the candidate.

Balraj Manhas has sent 27 sworn statements from supporters to PC party officials to prove that he had the required signatures to contest the Edmonton-Ellerslie nomination. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

But the controversy was far from over, as Metro was provided with two statutory declarations from two Manhas supporters claiming they'd been approached by a proxy operating on behalf of Bhardwaj who attempted to mislead them and, in one case, offer a bribe.

PC officials said an internal investigation turned up no evidence of wrongdoing on Bhardwaj's part, but the incumbent has since withdrawn from the election and filed a $1 million lawsuit against one of his accusers, Balbir Sidhu.

But Manhas said the sworn statements he gathered over a day and a half immediately after being disqualified are proof he should have been allowed to run. He said he held off on going public with the documents to give both the party and Edmonton police, who were called in by the NDP, time to properly investigate.

PC leader Jim Prentice said last week, "I believe, at the end of the day, Mr. Bhardwaj will be totally innocent."

"How can he say that when the police investigation is on?" Manhas said Thursday. "That means he's just trying to influence that police investigation. So I was very shocked. I learned a big lesson."

In an effort to be thorough, Metro reached out to every Manhas supporter who included a phone number in their statutory declaration. At press time, 18 of them had been reached and all confirmed they'd signed his original nomination papers. The names on the declarations were also cross-referenced with photos of his original nomination papers that were previously provided.

Manhas also provided a Feb. 19 email in which he wrote a letter to a party vice-president and supplied electronic copies of the sworn statements. He said the only response he's received was a Feb. 26 email from party president Terri Beaupre,

"Your concerns expressed regarding the nomination in Edmonton-Ellerslie have been brought to my attention," she wrote at the time. "I have them and will look into them."

But the PC party stuck to its guns when asked Thursday about the sworn statements provided by Manhas.

"We stand by the results of our original investigation and look forward to getting Harman Kandola elected in Edmonton-Ellerslie," party executive director Kelley Charlebois said in an email. Kandola was named the candidate after Bhardwaj's withdrawal.

Manhas, meanwhile, said he's cut all ties with the PC party after 12 years.

"One thing is clear — this party is controlled only by a few people ... the grassroots workers, they have no say and they don't even honour them," he said.

LALL DISALLOWED

Ex-board member cries foul

Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Party officials broke their own laws when they disqualified Progressive Conservative candidate Jamie Lall days before a nomination vote, charges a former board member.

Gloria Wilkinson has been volunteering for the PC Party since 1979, and said she's never seen anything like the circumstances surrounding Lall's disqualification from a race against incumbent Bruce McAllister in Chestermere-Rocky View.

Wilkinson sat on the Chestermere-Rocky View riding association board until she resigned last week.

She explained that the "one-liner" explanation given for Lall's disallowance from running for the PC's wasn't acceptable.

"In my estimation, somebody interfered," Wilkinson said. "There is no reason that would disqualify him. We were given no explanation, nothing."

Fellow board members John Fitzsimmons and Ada Rawlin also stepped down, although the latter stated her decision was based on health reasons.

Party officials declined to comment further on the disqualification Thursday, but previously leader Jim Prentice has said previously that Lall knows why he was taken off the ballot, a move that led to McAllister's acclamation.

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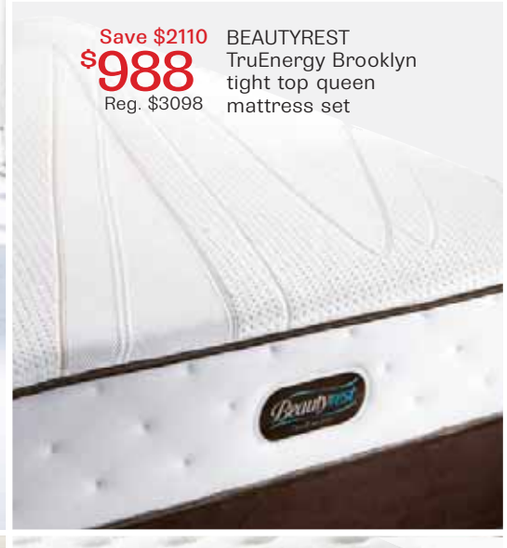

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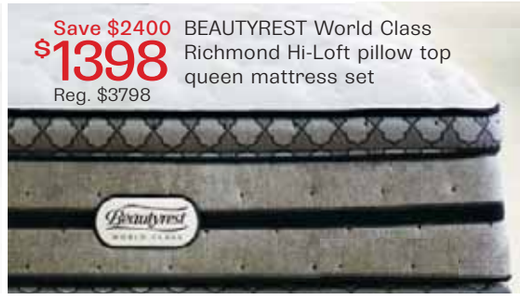

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COLUMN

Going out with baby

Mike Morrison
Metro | Calgary

Children. We were all kids once. Many people have them. So why haven't we figured out how to deal with them?

At a recent Cirque du soleil performance, a couple brought a baby who cried the whole time. And I'm not exaggerating. The whole time. Do you think the couple left? No. Why? I want to say entitlement, but I fear that might induce a mob of angry moms and dads who are fine with bringing babies to events like this, but think it's incredibly rude for me to point out why they shouldn't.

When it comes to babies and adults, who's entitled to what? What's fair? What's right? In the day of Facebook campaigns and insta-petitions, upset parents usually win out, so businesses and customers are often too scared to say anything. The wrath of a scorned parent can be brutal.

Earlier this week, a restaurant in Cape Breton called the Lobster Pound and Moore posted on Facebook that they would be cracking down on children in the restaurant. "We will no longer allow small screaming children," they posted. "We are an adult themed restaurant that caters to those who enjoy food and are out to enjoy themselves."

How do you think that went for them?

Thanks to an online barrage of angry messages from a group called Cape Breton Moms United, the post is now deleted and the restaurant was forced to apologize. Saving the fact that there are now mom lobbyist groups with their own Facebook pages for another column, I'm beyond frustrated that the Lobster Pound and Moore was just trying to make their restaurant a better place for their paying customers to enjoy, yet in the end, they were the ones forced to apologize.

The fact of the matter is that there really are places where children don't belong. And that's OK. It would be weird for me to just hang out at Chuck E. Cheese by myself, even though I'm technically allowed to do so. But I don't need to be there, so I don't go there.

> **The fact of the matter is that there really are places where children don't belong. And that's OK.**

Maria Doll, an etiquette expert with Leadership Matters, agrees.

"At something like Cirque, everyone's paid quite a bit of money to see a performance, a baby should not be brought to something like that. Because they're babies, they don't know they're at a performance," she said.

I do sympathize with the couple who brought their baby to Cirque. I can only imagine how badly they needed a night out. And without fully knowing their situation, it might be unfair to shed light on them. But we all know, whether we want to publicly admit it or not, that newer families seem to be more and more comfortable with the idea of bringing their babies anywhere, no matter how much disruption it might cause to others.

But the idea of bringing a baby to a performance like Cirque du soleil is something I just can't wrap my head around.

And yes, I can already hear the Facebook groups creating petitions calling for my head on a Diaper Genie, but all I'm asking is for a little consideration. Before you were parents, you likely would have complained about the same thing. So why can't we find that common ground?

Mike Morrison writes Mike's Bloggity Blog and tweets from @mikesbloggity.

Calgary has begun its spring street sweeping for 2015. METRO

PARKING

Fines up for blocking street-sweepers

Fines would more than double for drivers who ignore temporary parking bans and block street sweepers with their vehicles under a new proposal from the city and Calgary Parking Authority.

CPA general manager Mike Derbyshire said the current fine of $50 (reduced to $36 with early payment) doesn't cover the cost of actually writing the ticket and towing the offending vehicle to a nearby location, out of the way of street-sweeping machinery. A new report recommends increasing the penalty to $120 (reduced to $80 with early payment) with the extra revenue "intended to cover the short tow costs."

Coun. Shane Keating, who chairs the city's transportation committee, said the city was actually losing money in its parking enforcement related to street sweeping.

Towing is not always immediately available to support street sweepers, the report notes, and vehicles that can't be moved end up preventing roads from being properly cleaned, often forcing crews to return days later.

The city sweeps about 14,600 lane kilometres of roadway each year, with roughly 1,300 lane kilometres requiring temporary parking bans. A total of 2,423 tickets were issued in 2014, according to the city report, up from 1,528 the year before.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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CELEBRITY

Neil Patrick Harris heading to Comic Expo

Forget how I met your mother — this weekend people are going to be talking about how they met Neil Patrick Harris in Calgary.

As a last-minute addition to the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo, the powers-that-be behind the show have managed to snag one more huge name in entertainment to bring to the event's 10-year anniversary.

And he's chosen Calgary for his first-ever fan event.

"It's fair to say that our office has never been so universally excited for a guest to attend Calgary Expo as we are for Mr. Harris," said hostess persona Emily Expo.

"His charm and talent cross all genres, from films to Hollywood award shows to silver screen to web series, and we are truly honoured that he has selected Calgary for his first convention appearance."

Harris, who is probably best known for his work as the host of the Academy Awards and as a star on the hit series How I Met Your Mother, will be at the Calgary Expo on Friday only.

> **Our office has never been so universally excited.**
> Hostess persona Emily Expo

He will have an autograph signing and a scheduled photo op at the Calgary Expo and then take part in a panel at the Stampede Corral at 7 p.m.

Attending the panel is free with Calgary Expo Friday and/or Four-Day Weekend Pass admission, but all tickets must be exchanged for wristbands in the Agrium Admissions area before entering The Corral.

The Expo recommends people arrive early, as they expect long lines.

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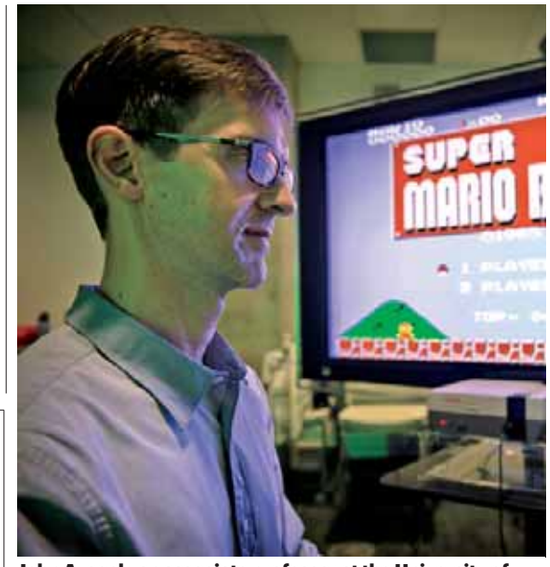

John Aycock, an associate professor at the University of Calgary, says much can be learned from video games produced as far back as the 1970s. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Prof touts beauty of retro games

EDUCATION

Titles such as Space Invaders studied in class

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

The levels and controls were simple, the graphics crummy by today's standards.

Yet it's still not uncommon to find a weary-eyed gamer in an arcade, hand fishing out his or her last few remaining coins in hopes of taking one last run as Pac-Man, one last shot at the helm of Missile Command.

And behind each game, according to a professor at the University of Calgary, was a group of developers working with many, many restraints and very little history to draw upon.

"The thing when you look at older games, all of our modern games come from there — all the genres, all types of games we play now, this is where they began," said John Aycock, an associate professor in the school's computer-sciences department.

"Basically, the programmers 25-30 years ago, they were starting from nothing.... It's amazing they got these things to run at all."

Aycock teaches a fourth-year course called Retrogames — he believes it's the coolest academic course on campus — and focuses on how original techniques for producing video games can still be used to bolster the latest and greatest role-playing game.

"If you look at, for instance, how they had to run on platforms that had very little memory ... they had to do all kinds of data compression. And all our modern systems, we still have a need for data compression," he said.

Aycock is also writing a book on retro games. He has plenty of study material nearby, as the U of C's Taylor Family Digital Library is home to one of the country's largest collections of past and present video games and consoles.

Aycock pulls consoles in for some of his teaching, allowing students a chance to try their hand at Space Invaders, the original Super Mario Bros. and more.

BACKGROUND

Aycock will give a talk Saturday at the Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo in the Palomino Hall at 2 p.m.

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EVENTS

Carl Weathers talks about upcoming visit to Calgary

Candice Ward
Metro | Calgary

Carl Weathers, best known for his role as Apollo Creed in the Rocky franchise, is sure to pack a punch at the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo, as the one of the many big names set hit the event at the Stampede Grounds this weekend.

What are you looking forward to the most about coming to Calgary/Expo?

Just being in Calgary more than anything else. It has been awhile (about 20 years). That's going to be interesting and exciting. It is always interesting going to a place you have been before and see how it has changed and grown.

Why is it important for you to connect with your fans?

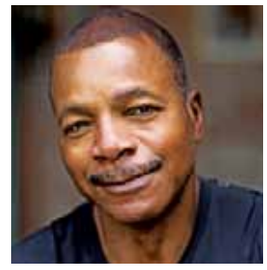
Today more than ever, the dynamic has changed. There is a strong correlation between people showing up to your movie or the show that you do because they feel a connection.

If you could take on the life of one of the characters you have played, who would it be?

They all seem to find some sort of interesting demise. I did a television series called Fortune Dane and I really liked what we were trying to do, it didn't quite transfer. But I liked that character and what that character was about.

Outside of acting, what are your hobbies?

I have worked with paint and brush from time to time, again, trying to express myself as an artist. I love cooking but I would not consider that as a hobby because I do that mainly to sustain myself.



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PERFORMANCE

Folklore and faeries

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

As legend tells us, faeries and fantastical creatures are right at our doorsteps, and all we have to do is wander around in the Canadian Rockies to find their hiding spots amongst the rolling hills and green marshes.

This weekend there's a performance presented by Calgary Pro Musica fit for eager little fantasy hunters.

It's both storytelling, music and folklore — but the best part is that subjects of Samantha Whelan Kotkas' tales can be visited on a day's trip to Canmore.

"It's really neat when a kid can get emotionally attached to something, and then go see it," Whelan Kotkas said.

"I've really researched the areas that I've gone into … I'm very accurate when I'm describing the areas, so that when kids go with their parents to these places, they can find the things I'm talking about."

Whelan Kotkas said although she's performed the tales for about 20 years this will be the first time she'll be joined by 12 musicians in quartets.

"The kids can hear 12 professional musicians playing 12 different instruments, which is really cool when you're three-years-old and you may never have heard one instrument live — let alone 12."

Tickets are $12 for students and seniors and $15 for adults. They can be bought by calling 403-220-7202. The show is at Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary, and starts at 1:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. For more information visit: www.calgarypromusica.ca

IN BRIEF

Cats die in house fire

Firefighters put out a blaze in a bungalow northwest Calgary Thursday, but two pets didn't survive.

The fire broke out in the 4600 block of 21 Avenue NW when no one was at home. Two cats were retrieved from the residence and firefighters administered oxygen to the pets but both the animals died.

The fire caused significant damage to the home and firefighters said it's not known if there were working smoke alarms. METRO

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
Permanent Guardianship Order To
Brendan Treacy

Take notice that on the **29th day of May 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order**, of your child born on **December 8, 2007**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
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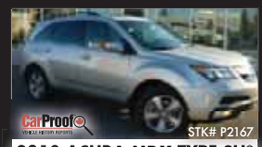
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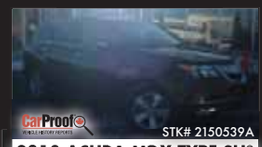
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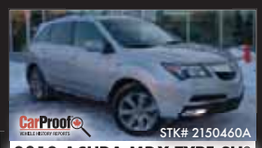
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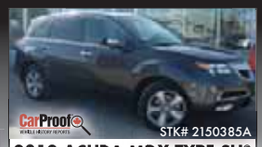
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Commutes too long for school kids, say parents

TRANSPORTATION

Cash-strapped board looking at 'creative' options

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's public school board may look toward adding additional congregated stops, especially for youngsters attending alternative programs, as transportation dollars lag and students continue to flood into the city.

It's just one of a number of options being looked at as the Calgary Board of Education crunches its funding numbers for 2015-16, according to director of planning and transportation Darlene Unruh.

"We are certainly looking at more ways of being able to offer creative transportation," she said. "It's a matter of looking at where the students live and realistically what would be a green space where parents would be able to congregate to drop their kids."

Communal stops are not uncommon in some neighbourhoods and Amber Abbott swears by them. Her three kids are picked up from a common site within walking distance of their Evanston home. Each then spends 15 to 20 minutes on the bus to get to traditional learning centre schools.

"I think they're great," she said. "I like the fact that the bus ride isn't drawn out with a bunch of different stops. It's predictable when it comes to knowing when it's coming. I think you get delays when you have a lot of different stops."

Mike Stiles with busing provider First Student Canada said it's the alternative-program students that create more logistical challenges for his organization and others.

"You have to expect the added ride time and most parents do; they understand it," he said. "You get the odd one that says it's unacceptable."

Erin Varsanyi's kids spend about 45 minutes on the bus each way to get to the Spanish bilingual program at Bishop Pinkham.

"That's kind of my maximum," she said. "If it was longer than that I'd probably pull them out."

Varsanyi said classes at Pinkham start at 8 a.m. sharp, meaning her kids have to get up early to be ready to catch the bus.

"I have to get up at 5:30 a.m. every morning to make sure they get out the door ... it's the trade-off of lack of sleep — that's where they really suffer," she said.

RIDE TIME

Longest median bus commutes by community

K-4:
- Redstone: 41 minutes (each way)
- Mahogany: 38 minutes
- Skyview Ranch: 31 minutes

Grades 5-9:
- Sage Hill: 49 minutes (each way)
- Mahogany: 48 minutes
- Evanston: 42 minutes
- Sherwood/Nolan Hill: 32 minutes

From left, Sharon Whalley, Mike Stiles and Janice Goode with First Student Canada are among those tasked with shuttling kids around town five days a week. But it's no easy task with a surging student population and continued city sprawl. METRO FILE

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

'Critical time' lost during bus rides

Kids already spend too much time sitting during a typical school day, says a local expert on physical wellness. And prolonged bus rides exacerbate the problem.

Dr. Dwayne Sheehan, an associate professor in the health and physical education department at Mount Royal University, says the period between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. is "critical time" for youngsters to burn off pent-up energy that's built up while sitting at their desks.

But he said when bus rides creep over the hour mark, many aren't even reaching home until the tail-end of that window.

"It's a downward spiral and it's regrettable for the kids that have to endure that," he said. "The lucky ones are the kids that get to walk to school, walk back after school, play with their friends outside and have the freedom to do what they're wired to do — and that is to move."

Sheehan said traditional classroom schedules keep kids sedentary for far too long — and then they climb on the bus and are told to sit still.

"There's absolutely nothing they can do in terms of physical activity — they can't even stand," he said. "So, it's just absolute torture and, from a physical activity perspective, it's just doing a tremendous disservice to children."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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MS Excel 2010 (Foundation)	18	Mondays & Wednesdays – May 25, 27; June 1, 3, 8 & 10
MS Office 2010 Advanced – Word & Excel	18	3 Saturdays – May 23, 30 & June 6
MS Power Point 2010	12	2 Saturdays – July 18 & 25
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Possible ban on exotic frogs looms over duo

PETS

Province said to be exploring its options

Dawn Soul caught her first glimpse of the tiny, brightly coloured dart frogs a decade ago. After returning from Costa Rica, she wanted to "bring the jungle home" with her, sparking a passion that started a business.

Along with partner Lucas Neter, the couple began breeding dart frogs in 2008, and now have upwards of 200 full-grown frogs and countless tadpoles.

But last month, the future of their business was tested.

Neter and Soul, now owners of Jungle Jewel Exotics, received a letter on March 9 from Alberta's Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) telling them they had until April 30 to divest themselves of their dart frogs by shipping them out of the province, giving them to a zoo or facing euthanasia.

Lucas Neter and Dawn Soul carry hundreds of dart frogs as part of Jungle Jewel Exotics. This female dendrobates tinctorius la fumee has been in their collection for years.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

That was when Neter said "things went to chaos."

"It was heartbreaking," he said. "This isn't just a job, this is about preserving this species."

Neter said dart frogs are only toxic in their native habitats due to their diet, but when in captivity, they can't develop the same alkaloids and are no longer a threat.

"The scary part about this situation is that one group, the ESRD, has the ability to make a regulation change at whim," said Neter. "Without consulting anyone, they can literally make a change overnight that instantly makes tens of thousands of people within Alberta criminals."

Duncan MacDonnell with the ESRD was unable to comment, citing the upcoming election, but he did say that they are exploring options and will provide further information when available. The April 30 deadline has been lifted, however, and MacDonnell said that they will allow Neter and Soul to continue selling their dart frogs.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Neter. "They're listening to our concerns. We're just hoping something comes through soon."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

EDUCATION

Group fears students being used as 'pawns'

Threats of cuts to public-school classroom technology and custodial budgets aren't exactly being welcomed by a city parent advocacy group, whose head believes more money could be pulled from administration.

Earlier this week, the Calgary Board of Education produced a budget assumptions report detailing a host of impacts it anticipated to address a nearly $30-million gap in funding for the 2015-16 school year. The board is planning to cut into its budgets for keeping schools clean, swapping out dated computers and more.

But the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) is quick to point out that the board's own budget documents indicate 26 per cent of provincial funding is being spent outside of the classroom, or about $286 million annually.

"This $286 million pays for another 2,900 teachers, or 6,000 aides," Michael McIntosh, CAPSC's interim president, wrote in a recent letter to CBE trustee chair Joy Bowen-Eyre.

"Surely if the CBE really did follow 'students first,' these funds would be allocated full-time into the school," he added.

In an interview Thursday, McIntosh said he fears the CBE's budget report is intended primarily to fulfill a political agenda, not assist kids.

"It definitely feels to me like the kids are being used as pawns in a funding war (with the province)," he said.

CBE trustees did vote Tuesday to take $18 million from an operating reserve and devote it to closing a portion of the funding gap. The board says it has received proper funding to keep up with student growth for the past half-decade. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

ADMIN

Board CFO Brad Grundy has noted that those working in administration spare principals and teachers a great deal of organizational and planning work.

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Draft dodgers left their mark

VIETNAM WAR

Objectors were 'best-educated group' ever to immigrate

When 22-year-old Bill King returned home to Indiana in 1968 to visit his parents after a stint as Janis Joplin's music director, the FBI was there waiting for him.

King's father, a Second World War veteran who landed at Normandy, helped negotiate a deal with the agents, who had been travelling around the United States looking for Vietnam War draft dodgers.

"If I agreed to go in the military, (the FBI) agreed to drop the charges of draft evasion," King, 68, said in an interview from Toronto ahead of the 40th anniversary of the end of the war on April 30.

King spent the next 10 months at two army bases before fleeing the night before he was to be sent off to Vietnam. He then hitchhiked to Canada, joining thousands of other draft dodgers between 1965 and 1975 who made the journey north of the border.

While it is still unclear how many men and women sought sanctuary in Canada — the country labelled draft dodgers as immigrants, as opposed to refugees — the federal government estimates up to 40,000 made the journey.

Most stayed after the war, "making up the largest, best-educated group this country ever received," says an archived report on the Citizenship and Immigration website.

King, an award-winning musician, producer and broadcaster, said the stories he heard from returning soldiers convinced him that he had to leave.

Not long after reporting to Fort Knox in Kentucky and joining the army band, King received a warning from a sergeant who had returned from Vietnam.

King said the sergeant told him how the army used its band to play music during U.S. inoculation campaigns in Vietnamese villages.

"They'd use (villagers) as guinea pigs, and they would use the band as a way to lure them out," he said.

"The band would go marching into these communities, and the first thing that would happen is somebody would fire on the band and kill the front row."

Bill King and his wife Kris pose at their Toronto home on April 14. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another American musician, Eric Nagler, who later found fame as a regular on The Elephant Show with Sharon, Lois and Bram, crossed from Vermont into Quebec in 1968 at the age of 26.

"I refused to kill anybody," Nagler said in an interview from his home outside Toronto. "The war was hideously ugly."

Jack Todd, a well-known sports columnist with the Montreal Gazette, fled the United States in January 1970.

"I was 100 per cent convinced the war was wrong," said Todd, 68. "It was probably illegal and definitely immoral and hugely murderous and unwinnable."

> **"I was 100 per cent convinced the war was wrong.**
> Jack Todd, sports columnist

Nagler, 72, gave himself up to authorities when he returned to the United States to help his family after his father-in-law died.

He was sentenced to three years in prison but was acquitted on appeal. Despite the acquittal and the eventual pardon of draft dodgers by then-president Jimmy Carter in 1977, Nagler came back to Canada and settled.

"In Canada, the worst that we had was the French-English problem, and it just pales in comparison to the kind of lynches and hatred and persecution that goes on in the U.S.," he said. "This is a much, much better place to be."

King, Nagler and Todd are but a few examples of the legacy the Vietnam draft dodgers left in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VANCOUVER INDIAN PRIME MINISTER VISITS SIKH TEMPLE Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrive at the Gurdwara Khalsa Diwan, a Sikh temple, in Vancouver on Thursday. Dozens of placard-waving protesters gathered about a block away as Modi arrived. Their shouts could be heard at the Sikh temple before Modi showed up, smiling and waving. Police cordoned off the building where Modi and Harper were to spend about 30 minutes before travelling to a Hindu temple in Surrey, B.C. Several hundred people were inside to see Modi, the first Indian prime minister to visit the oldest Sikh temple in North America.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report prompts apology from CBC

JIAN GHOMESHI

Investigation launched after allegations surfaced

A scathing report detailing the failure of CBC managers to stop star radio host Jian Ghomeshi's alleged inappropriate workplace behaviour elicited a profuse apology Thursday from its president.

A humbled Hubert Lacroix offered his "sincere and unqualified apology to our employees and to Canadians" as findings of a 52-page report were revealed, including allegations that the disgraced Ghomeshi belittled colleagues, played cruel pranks and, in a "small number of cases," sexually harassed them.

The report, which redacted portions that could identify employees, also concluded that Ghomeshi's managers knew about inappropriate behaviour but failed to act or hold the former Q host accountable.

"The findings of this report are troubling, they're disappointing and they point to lapses in our system and concerns about our culture," Lacroix said.

Outside investigator Janice Rubin interviewed 99 people over five months to prepare the report, which proposed nine recommendations that include a confidential hotline for employees and a "respect-at-work and human-rights" ombudsperson.

The investigation was launched after CBC fired Ghomeshi in October, saying there was "graphic evidence" he had caused physical injury to a woman.

Claims eventually emerged from more than a dozen women who alleged sexual or physical assault. Ghomeshi has admitted in a Facebook posting that he engaged in "rough sex" but insisted it was always consensual.

Ghomeshi faces seven counts of sexual assault and one of overcoming resistance by choking.

Rubin's report listed several alleged transgressions that initially went unpunished, most of them non-sexual in nature such as chronic lateness, being "moody and temperamental" and "critical and mean" to co-workers.

According to the report, a majority of witnesses who worked with Ghomeshi described "a pattern of behaviour and conduct" that was "deeply disrespectful to employees," however some witnesses reported have "no difficulty" working with him.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

DETAILS

Some of the investigator's recommendations:

- Review and clarify policies which set out behavioural standards at the CBC, along with the Canadian Media Guild union
- Provide training to both staff and managers on revised policies
- Create a confidential hotline for employees to report concerns and complaints
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Suspended senator Mike Duffy arrives at the courthouse in Ottawa for his trial on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM's makeup paid by Duffy contract: Crown

Stephen Harper's name surfaced at the Mike Duffy trial Thursday as court heard from a string of contractors who were paid through a taxpayer-funded account that the suspended senator allegedly used to skirt finance rules.

A former intern, a makeup artist and a personal trainer all described being paid by companies run by Duffy's longtime friend Gerald Donohue for services they provided to the senator — and in one case, to the prime minister as well.

The cheques form the basis for six of 30 fraud and breach-of-trust charges faced by Duffy, in addition to a single count of bribery involving a cheque that came from Harper's former chief of staff.

Duffy has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

The money came at Duffy's request, court heard; both makeup artist Jacqueline Lambert and personal trainer Michael Croskery testified he explicitly told them to bill either Maple Ridge Media or Ottawa ICF, both companies run by Donohue.

Cheques cut by Maple Ridge included $300 sent to Lambert, who had known Duffy for years in his role at CTV. She was first called to do his makeup as a senator in 2009, for a photo shoot, and Duffy told her to send him the invoice personally. A letter introduced in court from the Senate showed the expense wasn't approved. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Saguenay mayor will comply with prayer ruling

The Quebec mayor who would recite a prayer at the beginning of municipal council meetings expressed surprise Thursday at the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling that the practice must be stopped.

Saguenay Mayor Jean Tremblay said he will comply with the judgment, though he doesn't agree with it. "I respect the decision, and we will stop the prayer ... but I can't be in agreement with it," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ballet instructor dismissed amid police probe

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet has dismissed an instructor amid a police investigation into complaints that nude photos were taken of former female students. The ballet company said Thursday it had parted ways with Bruce Monk, who was named by Maclean's magazine as being under investigation for allegedly taking nude and semi-nude photos of teenage students in the 1980s and '90s. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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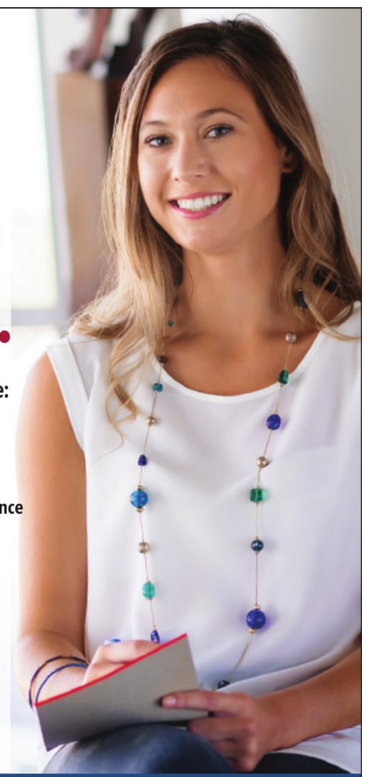

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Police: Muslims threw Christians overboard

MIGRATION CRISIS

Accusations fly of homicide, religious hate

Italy's migration crisis took on a deadly new twist Thursday as police in Sicily reported that Muslim migrants had thrown 12 Christians overboard during a recent crossing from Libya, and an aid group said another 41 were feared drowned in a separate incident.

Palermo police said they had detained 15 people suspected in the high-seas assault, which they learned of while interviewing tearful survivors from Nigeria and Ghana who had arrived in Palermo on Wednesday morning after being rescued at sea by the ship Ellensborg.

The 15 were accused of multiple homicide aggravated by religious hatred, police said in a statement.

The survivors said they had boarded a rubber boat April 14 on the Libyan coast with 105 passengers aboard, part of the wave of migrants taking advantage of calm seas and warm weather to make the risky crossing from Libya, where most smuggling operations originate.

During the crossing, the migrants from Nigeria and Ghana — believed to be Christians — were threatened with being abandoned at sea by some 15 other passengers from the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Mali and Guinea Bissau.

Eventually the threat was carried out, and 12 were pushed overboard. The statement said the motive was that the victims "professed the Christian faith, while the aggressors were Muslim."

The surviving Christians, the statement said, only managed to stay on board by forming a "human chain" to resist the assault.

Earlier Thursday, the International Organization of Migration said four migrants who were picked up in recent days by the Italian Navy reported a shipwreck to aid workers after arriving in the Italian port of Trapani on Thursday. Their boat had originally been carrying 45 people; the others are presumed dead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10,000

An unprecedented wave of migrants has headed for the European Union's promised shores over the past week, with 10,000 people making the trip. Hundreds — nobody knows how many — have disappeared into the Mediterranean, including 41 migrants reported dead Thursday after a shipwreck.

Migrants are transferred to holding centres after disembarking from the Italian Coast Guard ship Dattilo on Thursday. CARMELO IMBESI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Guards protect last male rhino of his kind

The world's only remaining male northern white rhino is now under armed guard all day and night, and an online campaign is looking to raise funds to keep these "rhino rangers" to help protect the subspecies from extinction.

Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy has launched a GoFundMe campaign aiming to crowdfund 75,000 pounds, or $136,000 Canadian dollars, to help employ rangers to protect 42-year-old Sudan and other animals.

Rhinos have become targets for poachers, fueled by belief in Asia that their horns have medicinal properties.

In addition to the armed security, and using anti-poaching dogs, the conservancy attaches radio transmitters to the animals in order to collect intelligence on poaching in the area.

The 36,400-hectare reserve is home to two other northern white rhinos — of the only five remaining in the world.

The fate of keeping the northern cousins alive rests on Sudan and his ability to conceive with either of the conservancy's female rhinos. METRO

IN BRIEF

Thousands flee as ISIL advances on Ramadi, Iraq

More than 2,000 families have fled the Iraqi city of Ramadi with little more than the clothes on their backs, officials said Thursday, as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) closed in on the capital of western Anbar province, clashing with Iraqi troops and turning it into a ghost town.

The extremist group, which has controlled the nearby city of Fallujah for more than a year, captured three villages on Ramadi's eastern outskirts on Wednesday.

The advance is widely seen as a counteroffensive after ISIL lost the city of Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, earlier this month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Balloons released during a ceremony to commemorate the first anniversary of the Sewol ferry sinking. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anger still raw over ferry deaths

SOUTH KOREA

Relatives unmoved by leader's vow to salvage vessel

With public anger and grief raw one year after a ferry sinking killed 304 people, South Korea's president promised on Thursday to raise the submerged vessel, even as relatives of the victims snubbed her appearance at a mourning ceremony.

Black-clad relatives and their supporters remembered the dead, most of whom were high school students, on the anniversary of the sinking of the Sewol in one of the country's worst maritime disasters.

In the evening, tens of thousands of mourners including family members and students joined a rally in downtown Seoul, where relatives have protested for months. The group tried to march to a memorial hall but was blocked by large numbers of police, who used tear gas.

Earlier in the day, relatives blocked the prime minister from attending a mourning event. They cancelled another ceremony because of what they called government indifference to their plight.

There's frustration among South Koreans who see their government as having failed to make meaningful improvements to safety standards and hold high-level officials accountable for a disaster blamed in part on incompetence and corruption.

Hours before a trip abroad, President Park Geun-hye visited a small port near the site of the sinking to offer condolences to bereaved relatives. Most, however, refused to meet her to protest the government's response.

Park gave a speech anyway, announcing plans to salvage the ferry — a demand of the relatives. She said only that the operation would happen "as soon as possible."

Flags at public buildings were lowered to half-staff and a minute of silence was observed in Ansan, the city that lost nearly an entire class of students on a doomed field trip to a southern resort island. A private ceremony was planned at Danwon High School in the evening.

Relatives cancelled a memorial service in Ansan that thousands were planning to attend. They expressed anger over Park not visiting the site and not giving a firm commitment for a deeper investigation into what they say is government responsibility for the sinking and botched rescue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA

Accused shot gun to 'scare' victim: Defence

The doctor who performed the autopsy on a college baseball player from Australia who was shot in the back while jogging in Oklahoma said Thursday that even immediate medical attention would not have saved his life.

"Apart from a miracle, no," said Dr. Inas Yacoub, a forensic pathologist with the state medical examiner's office. Yacoub testified in the first-degree murder trial of 17-year-old Chancey Allen Luna, who is charged with shooting Christopher Lane, 22, in August 2013, that he recovered a .22-calibre bullet from Lane's body.

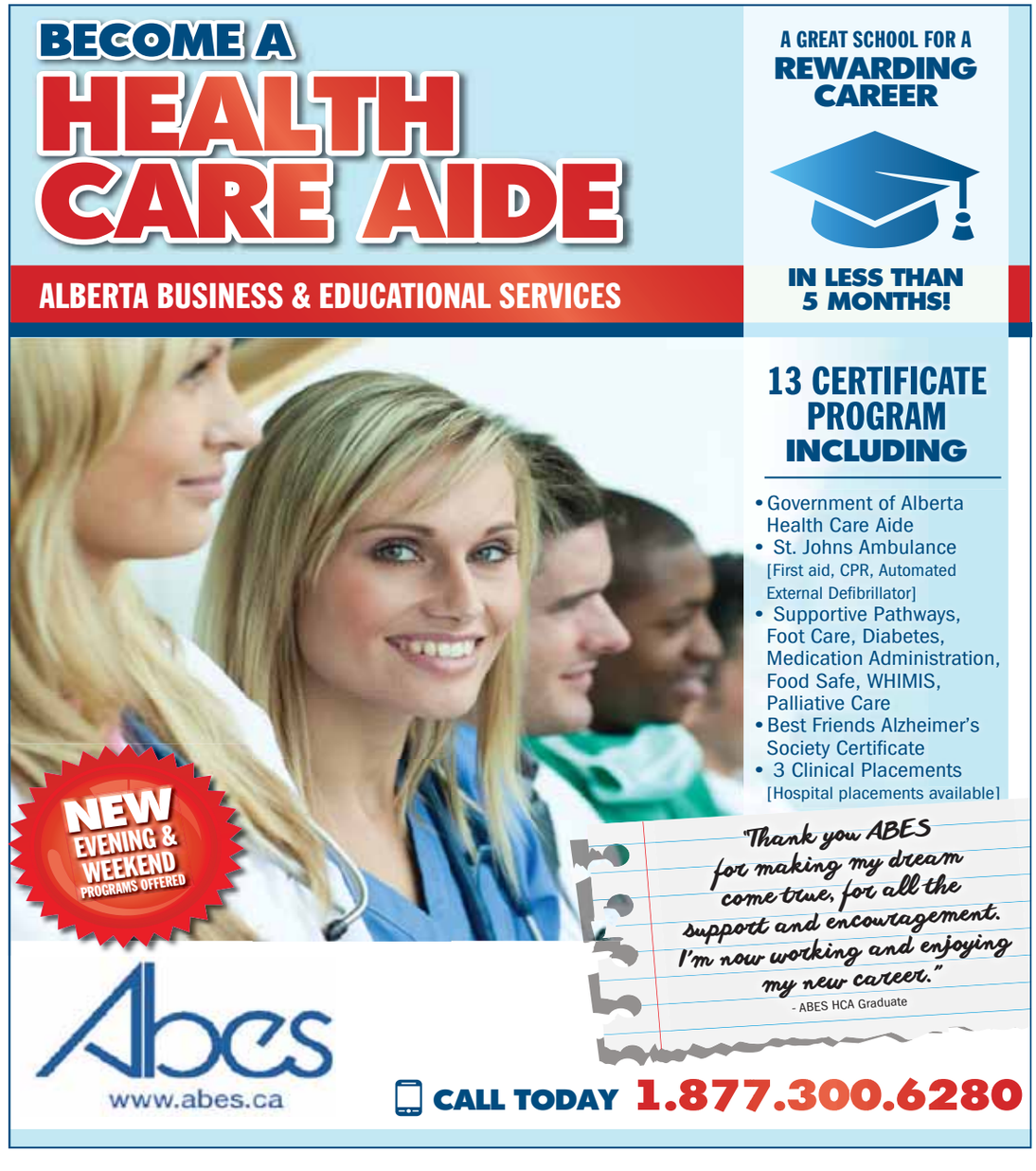
"Despite being small, it damaged vital structures and caused significant bleeding," Yacoub told jurors, striking two major blood vessels, puncturing both lungs and breaking two ribs.

The victim's mother, Donna Lane, wiped tears from her face when prosecutors showed jurors a photo of the bloody T-shirt her son was wearing.

Defence attorneys acknowledge that Luna fired the fatal shot but say he was only trying to scare Lane, a native of Melbourne, Australia, who was in Oklahoma on a college baseball scholarship. Luna is not expected to testify and the defence indicated it may call just one witness, Luna's mother, Jennifer Luna. She said outside the courthouse that she doesn't believe her son is guilty, despite his attorneys' comments to the jury.

"Those are court-appointed lawyers. If I had the money to get a real lawyer, it wouldn't go this way," Jennifer Luna said.

"If my son did it, it wasn't on purpose. It wasn't meant to be. My son would never intentionally try to hurt somebody." Closing arguments are on Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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INDIA

Hardline groups pushing for ban on beef

Every morning just before dawn, hundreds of trucks loaded with buffaloes trundle into New Delhi's sprawling slaughterhouse where young men rush to unload the bellowing cargo. Skidding on heaps of fresh dung, they herd them out of the trucks for the daily auction and slaughter.

But the business is big. Despite Hindu beliefs that cows are sacred — and the fact that their slaughter is banned in most of the country — India is the world's fifth-largest consumer and second-largest exporter of beef. The meat, which in India comes from bulls and buffaloes, is widely eaten in some communities, particularly by low-caste Hindus and millions of others.

With the victory of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party last year, hardline Hindu groups are pushing to expand the slaughter ban to include all types of cattle, male or female.

The state's decision did not come as a surprise. During his election campaign, Modi promised the countrywide ban.

For many Indians, a ban would be an unwelcome government intrusion.

"Is the government going to tell us what we can eat and what we cannot eat? We've been eating beef for generations," said Danish Qureshi, a young trader at Ghazipur. "It's like telling people they can't eat sugar. This ban won't work." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PENALTIES

Beef slaughter carries fine, jail term

The ban carries a stiff punishment: Bail is not allowed and anyone convicted of selling or possessing beef faces a five-year jail term.

FINANCE SURGING STOCK Shares of arts-and-crafts retailer Etsy surged in opening trading on the Nasdaq. After pricing at $16 late Wednesday, the stock opened at nearly double that and hit a high of $35.73 in morning trading. The company is valued at $3.33 billion, based on afternoon trading just shy of $30. MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Cirque set to be sold

CULTURE

Deal would give 60% majority share to TPG Capital

Emotions are running high at Cirque du soleil as the company is preparing to announce the sale of the famed Quebec circus troupe on Monday even though co-founder Guy Laliberte has yet to fully sign off on the transaction.

Employees are sad because an era in one of Quebec's creative success stories seems to be on the verge of change, said a former senior official who remains close to old colleagues.

"I'm very emotional because it's the end of something extraordinary," said the source, who didn't want to be identified.

Laliberte told workers on Wednesday he had not yet concluded a sale agreement, which reports say would be for something under $2 billion.

Sources close to the deal say U.S. private equity firm TPG Capital is close to completing a deal that involves Quebec pension fund manager the Caisse de depot and a large Chinese investment fund.

Laliberte would reportedly continue to hold 10 per cent of the company after the sale and the Caisse another 10 per cent, with TPG holding 60 per cent and China's Fosun Capital the remaining 20 per cent.

The new owners plan to maintain the Cirque's headquarters in Montreal and would expand its global operations by opening a support office in Shanghai.

"Any transaction would involve both the management and creative soul of the company remaining in Montreal," said a source close to the deal.

The purchase price is reportedly less than what Laliberte was seeking. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DOW JONES: 18,105.77 (-6.84))

Bell faces $750M lawsuit

A national class action lawsuit has been filed against Bell Canada over alleged breaches of privacy arising from its recently discontinued target ads program.

The $750-million suit against Bell alleges the defendants used the program to collect and sell customers' sensitive account information to advertisers.

A spokesman for Bell was not immediately available for comment on the allegations contained in the lawsuit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, April 17-19, 2015

Happy face/Sad face

From an update on **marijuana use** to the lowdown on **discrimination** in the lab, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week.

World's most unhorrible boss

Seattle's Dan Price took a 90 per cent, $930,000 pay cut at his payment-processing company so he could raise salaries for his 120 staff. From an annual average of $48,000, everyone will be making at least $70,000 by 2018. There's greater inequality today than there's been since the Great Recession, Price observed. "This is a capitalist solution to a social problem," he said. "I think it pays for itself, I really do."

All the dope on declining dope use

Statistics Canada reports marijuana use may be down among teens and young adults. The percentage of 15- to 24-year-olds who've partaken dropped from 2002 to 2012. Gender-wise, 49 per cent of males have tried it compared to 36 per cent of females. Nor is it necessarily a gateway drug: most cocaine and heroin users have used marijuana. But most marijuana users have never used other illicit drugs.

A water hazard with real teeth

There were no crocodile tears for golfer John Lahiff, 75, after he was bitten in the right calf at a resort in northern Australia. "It's partly my fault for disturbing it," he said stoically. "It was just sunbaking." He was navigating a water trap when the 1.2-metre croc showed up. Attacks from younger crocs are rare, said local authorities. But he's lucky it was little. Adult crocs can measure six metres long, with teeth to match.

Scientists want fame for females, too

UBC scientists Judy Illes and Catherine Anderson quit the selection committee of the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame after only men were nominated for the second year in a row. The public does the nominating, but Illes said more could be done to change perceptions that science is a male pursuit. "To have zero women two years in a row signifies a failure on our part to really reach out as needed."

Don't click if you can't commit to an e-vite

THE KOHLER REPORT
Rebecca Kohler

Last week I went to a sad birthday party to which I was the seventh and last guest to arrive. There's nothing wrong with a small party, unless it wasn't planned as a small party.

What made this one particularly heartbreaking was that in the middle of the room sat a giant charcuterie plate — picture a surfboard covered in salami and paté. When the butcher (charcuterie artist?) had asked how many guests were expected, the birthday girl had estimated 25 based on her Facebook invite: 28 "attending," nine "maybes." With me as the final arrival, let's just say she was eating salty meats for several days afterward.

With this not being the first under-attended party I've been at over the past year, I got to wondering: has Facebook made us flakier than skin in winter?

I've suffered similar humiliations. When I threw a party last New Year's Eve, my Facebook invitation boasted 30 confirmed attendees. Instead, I rang in 2014 among an awkward mix of 11 people I kind of knew. The biggest sting wasn't just people not showing up; it was who hadn't shown up — close friends who'd made comments on the invite like, "See you tonight!" and "Can't wait!"

Should auld acquaintance be forgot? Uh, if you're not even going to show up to my party, then yeah, forget you. The only thing worse than waking up on Jan. 1 hung over after a big party is waking up hung over after a tiny party. "Happy New Year! You're a loser!"

People have been bailing on plans since the beginning of time — I'm sure there was once a lonely caveman standing in an empty cave with an abundance of fire and paleo snacks — but because of the removed nature of "e-vites," our inability to commit is out of control. Clicking on a virtual button is way less of an emotional investment than speaking or making eye contact.

And I get it: Facebook and other social-networking sites have expanded my IRL social life greatly. I'm a comedian, so I have 2,033 FB friends. I probably know like 42 of them (and like like 15 of them) but I get invited to ALL of their events.

It's only human: you see an invite and you want to look like you care, you want to look social, so you press "Going" or "Join." But often we click whether we intend to go or not, forgetting that at the other end of the Internet is a friend or acquaintance who sees our acceptance with glee. That person then starts excitedly planning and vacuuming and putting melon balls and prosciutto on toothpicks.

There is a disconnect between your mouse and that person's feelings that we need to address. We need to revisit our callous clicking because the more you try to look like you care online, the more of an uncaring monster you look in real life.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

"Host culture enabled Ghomeshi to rule with impunity a long time"

I've worked at public broadcasters and I know so-called host culture.

Why doesn't CBC executive Heather Conway?

She and other Mother Corp leaders appeared humbled yesterday in the face of a scathing report on workplace culture at Q — sorry, q. We apologize, we fully accept the report's findings and we'll implement the recommendations swiftly, they chanted.

The report found that a range of abuses by Jian Ghomeshi went unchecked and host culture played a key role. But pressed on how CBC would deal with host culture, Conway downplayed its very existence. "I'm not sure that host culture, or the premise, is an excuse for managers not managing," she said. She also rejected the idea it's a problem with other hosts.

Well, I'd refer Conway back to that report the CBC commissioned, because in the words of one witness, it's "definitely an issue."

Also known as "keeping the talent happy" — a phrase I picked up while working for the CBC and BBC — host culture means that "my voice next to his would mean nothing," as one alleged Ghomeshi victim has told media.

Now that Ghomeshi's gone, though, we shouldn't worry, according to Conway.

That's despite the fact that the report dedicated a whole section to host culture and how it enabled Ghomeshi to rule with impunity, and despite the fact that witnesses said it's been a problem at the broadcaster "for a long time."

Host culture is not some kind of Q anomaly. Egos in media are notorious for a reason. Ghomeshi's an extreme example of a subtle and pervasive hierarchy where the face of a program gets deferential treatment due to their pivotal and public role in a program's success.

And maybe the worst thing about host culture is how closely tied it is to the kind of celebrity the CBC was chasing in Ghomeshi. The celebrity that helped him reach those ugly heights and kept him there too long. We know from other cases, such as the horrific Jimmy Savile child-abuse scandal at the BBC, that placating and protecting celebrity talent is dangerous.

To deny that role in the Ghomeshi affair, or even to reject its presence elsewhere in the CBC, will only do one thing: protect the powerful.

CBC leadership is promising a "culture shift." They're going to clean up the mess of inadequate policies and management failures. They're going to make the hierarchy clear, and the host won't be at the top of it, so they say.

But that means nothing if host culture persists. Oh sorry, I forgot. It doesn't exist.

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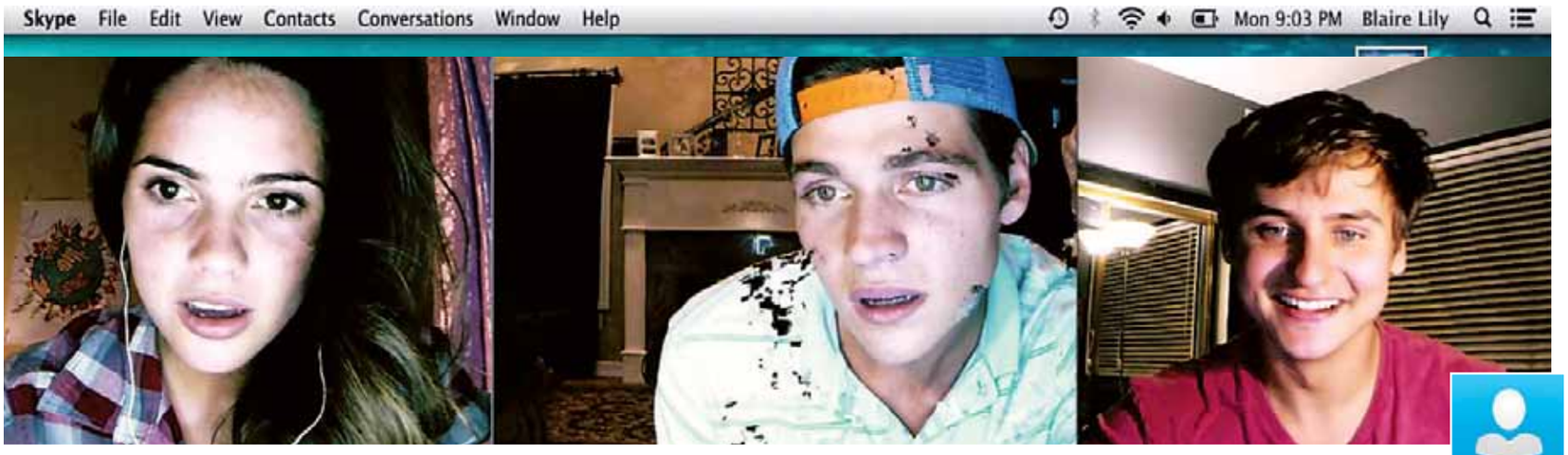
Your essential daily news

Amy Winehouse doc to screen at Cannes



#IKnowWhatYouDidOnline

NEW RELEASE

Unfriended is social commentary masked as a horror film

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

The best horror films are never only about the Double Gs — guts and gore.

Sure, part of the appeal of scary movies is that they make the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end, and that frequently requires a spray of blood or a nightmarish vision of terror in the form of Freddy Kruger or Jason Voorhees, but great horror films are always about something other than the thrills and chills.

To be truly effective, scary pictures must tap into a collective anxiety; societal hot buttons that elevate the frights to a new level.

For instance, Frankenstein plays on people's fear of science while Godzilla is an obvious cultural metaphor for nuclear weapons in reaction to the devastation of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and you don't have to be Sigmund Freud to see Dracula as the metaphorical embodiment of everything from drug addiction and old age to alternative lifestyles and capitalism.

Perhaps the most socially self-aware horror film of all is Night of the Living Dead. It's got zombies galore but director George A. Romero had the braaaiiins to include a subtext that echoed the contemporary state of America's race relations, the horrors of Vietnam and cynicism with government. It's the best of both worlds: a thought-provoking movie that gushes with gore.

Film historian Linda Badley suggests Night of the Living Dead horrifies because the zombies weren't bizarre creatures from outer space or from Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory, but because, "They're us."

This weekend a new film, Unfriended, turns the camera, or in this case the Skype screen, on us in an eerie story about bullying.

On the surface, Unfriended may look like a cheapo teen horror flick with a cast of unknowns — which it is, but so was Night of the Living Dead — but by basing the plot in the world of social media and the bad behaviour that comes along with anonymous avatars, it becomes a ripped-from-the-headlines comment on a very touchy societal subject.

The movie begins a year after Laura, a popular high school student, has been cyber shamed into killing herself.

A teenage girl is on a group Skype session when she begins to receive cryptic and threatening messages from Laura's old account. As the movie unfolds, secrets are revealed and the danger is amped up.

The mysterious killer is a hoary old horror convention, but here it's told in the contemporary language of millennials.

Unsurprisingly, the movie has already sparked the interest of the Y Generation — the trailer garnered almost 300,000 Twitter comments on its first day. Millenials relate to the setting (by and large, it takes place on a computer screen) and are all too familiar with the everyday brutality of Twitter, Facebook, Skype, Instagram and Spotify.

They understand what a minefield the web can be and the filmmakers realized the narrative possibilities of creating cinema's first deadly Internet troll. Freddy Kruger is your father's baddie; the new horror comes in bits and bytes.

Similar to Psycho's Norman Bates or the undead of 28 Days Later, the kids of Unfriended tell a very specific story — the sad tale of a teen suicide — that becomes a universal horror tale by making the characters and setting ordinary and relatable.

Like the best of classic fright films, it breathes new life into a form we've seen before by recontextualizing it for a new generation.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Unfriended ★★★★
Monkey Kingdom ★★★★
Desert Dancer ★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

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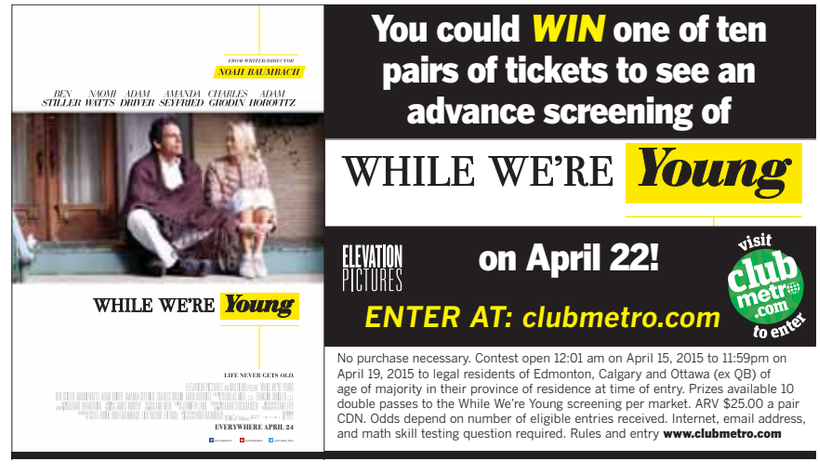
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VIDEO GAMES

Band-based titles back in the games

With Guitar Hero and Rock Band preparing new editions for later in 2015, band-based video games have gone from rock star fantasy to ignominy before this year's comeback.

The beginnings

Inspired by a Japanese arcade franchise GuitarFreaks, Massachusetts studio Harmonix produced a console equivalent in 2005's Guitar Hero, powered by special guitar-shaped controllers — an immediate, industry-changing success.

Harmonix's partner RedOctane was acquired by Activision, who then published 2006 sequel Guitar Hero II. By that time, Harmonix had started working on an expanded vision of its original concept.

In the band

2007's Rock Band took lead, rhythm and bass guitar elements, integrating aspects of GuitarFreaks sibling DrumMania and Harmonix's earlier Karaoke Revolution. Players could now drum a plastic kit or sing. Likewise, 2008's Guitar Hero World Tour supported a similar range of instrument-shaped controllers and multi-track songs.

Five fully fledged titles were released over the course of 2009: Activision diversified by offering Guitar Hero 5, pop variant Band Hero, and the turntablist's DJ Hero, while Harmonix had licensed spin-offs Lego Rock Band and The Beatles: Rock Band. Half a dozen more supplementary song packs were also made available.

Rock bottom

But as it turned out, 2007 entry Guitar Hero III had marked the genre's peak. By the end of 2010, several Guitar Hero teams had closed and Harmonix had parted with then-owner Viacom, focusing instead on Dance Central and Disney's Fantasia: Music Evolved for Microsoft.

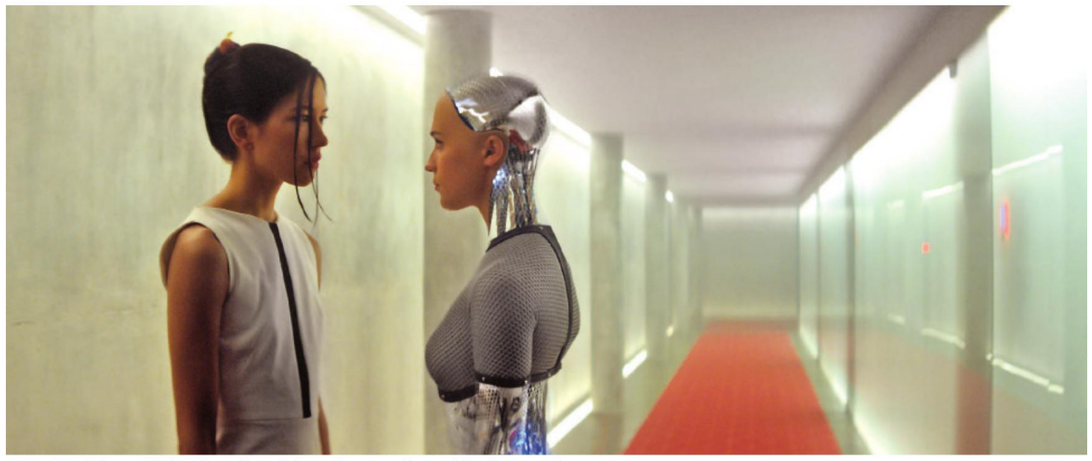
Further innovation came from an unexpected source. Ubisoft stepped in with 2011's full-on guitar tutor Rocksmith. It proved genuinely capable of teaching musical skills.

Comeback tour

A rejuvenated Harmonix is returning to a vision of social, shared, party-vibe experiences for late 2015's Rock Band 4.

Meanwhile, Activision's comeback Guitar Hero Live takes a different approach to authenticity. Its guitar controller has six wood-toned buttons that help approximate real chord shapes. Visually, it leverages rock concert footage to create an immediate, on-stage view. More than technical mastery, this is now about selling an adrenalin experience. AFP

Video games Guitar Hero Live (pictured) and Rock Band 4 promise something new in 2015. CONTRIBUTED



In Ex Machina, Alicia Vikander, right, plays a robot with a human face. CONTRIBUTED

Ex Machina puts face on being non-human

SCI-FI

Swedish actress on challenges of robot role

Matt Prigge
Metro in New York City

Alicia Vikander plays a robot with A.I. capabilities in Ex Machina. She talked to Metro while promoting the new film.

Ex Machina is an unusual way to do a sci-fi film: It's very stripped down, its effects organic to the narrative. At times, with its single digit characters, it plays like a play.
It's a chamber piece. To be able to have such long scenes is very rare. Very often you start a scene, you start to get into it, and then it's over. You find a certain path you hadn't taken in another take. In this film you really had the chance to execute whatever new influences or directions you found.

The question in the film is whether Ava, your robotic character, genuinely thinks and feels independent of her programming. How did you approach that?
With any part, even when you're trying to create a new character, you can at least relate to the fact that they're human. With this you couldn't even do that.

I figured that because they were questioning whether she was real or not that her maker must have come very far (in programming her). I wanted her to come very close to that idea. Alex (Garland, the writer-director) was very open about it. I basically had a blank sheet. It was one of those roles you really want because you're quite terrified and scared of taking it on, but you do get to try whatever you want.

It's a film that gets at the heart of what defines consciousness: She's designed, but in a sense we all are.
I could ask myself 10,000 questions. If I said something did I know that I said it? Did I have any intention of saying it?

Was it something I was programmed to say or something I learned? It was scary, because the questions kept coming, one after another. But if you do believe she has a conscience then she's a girl being locked up. And if not, then she's a machine in a space.

WOMAN OR MACHINE

The dynamics of mechanical design

In the movie the scientist, played by Oscar Isaac, creates women, locks them up and then dismantles them if they don't fulfill their duties. Asked if the film can be read as a feminist statement about a man, Viklander says:

"It comes down to the general view of women, and sexualizing them, in our society. But then there's also the fact that she is an object. There's a double-side to it, depending on how you see it.

"Alex wasn't necessarily making a feminist film, but he was bringing up truths in our society."

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Deborah Ann Woll stars as Karen Page in Daredevil. GETTY IMAGES

Daredevil star 'a very proud dork'

DEBORAH ANN WOLL

Marvel character starts off sweet but turns into a drug addict

Richard Crouse
Metro | Life

A quick Internet search turns up many adjectives used to describe Daredevil star Deborah Ann Woll; gorgeous, talented and cute to name just a few.

The redheaded actress uses other terms to describe herself.

"There's nerd, geek, all those words," she says. "I am settling closer and closer to dork. I am a very proud dork."

The former True Blood star — she played fierce teenage vampire Jessica Hamby for seven seasons on the hit show — embraces her inner dork — "I'm Dungeons and Dragons player, a Mystery Science Theatre buff. I like board games."

She says the role playing games have benefits beyond entertainment value.

"Sometimes I feel socially awkward. I feel like sometimes I have trouble connecting to people who are more extroverted. Something like Dungeons and Dragons or a board game is a way for me to be social but it takes some of the responsibility off of me myself. If I don't feel impressive as myself, I can feel impressive as Mistress Pyrona, the Genosi Sword Maiden. Like my acting, it gives me a little bit of support.

"Playing Dungeons and Dragons isn't at all like acting but it is that idea that you can be braver when you're someone else."

On the Netflix series Daredevil, she plays Karen Page, secretary and soon-to-be love interest of Matt Murdock, a blind lawyer who moonlights as crime fighter Daredevil.

The character has been around since the first Daredevil comic in 1964 but has changed substantially over the years. Page began as innocent and sweet, but slowly morphed into a "heroin-addicted porn star," a character that gives Woll lots to work with.

"I like characters that change. For my Karen I said, 'Alright, she's going to have moments when she's innocent, sweet and fun to be around and she'll have moments where she's dark and a little addicted to that adrenaline rush and danger. I want both of those things to live in her at the same time.' We started her with a bit of a past, which hopefully, if we get to do any more of Daredevil we'll find out about."

> **"Dungeons and Dragons isn't like acting, but it is that idea that you can be braver when you're someone else."**
>
> Actress Deborah Ann Woll, on role-playing games

NETFLIX

Fourth season of OITNB ordered

Netflix has confirmed its fourth order of Orange Is the New Black, though the company is yet to reveal how many episodes season 4 will consist of.

Netflix customers won't be able to start watching the third season of the hit show until June 12 when all episodes go on demand. Nevertheless fans can rest assured that once they've binged through all 14 episodes of this year's series, they'll only have 12 months to wait before being able to do it all over again.

OITNB star Taylor Schilling
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

On Wednesday Netflix released a new teaser clip of what to expect in season three. AFP

ADAPTATIONS

Is Jolie set to direct Captain Marvel?

Collider claims that Angelina Jolie, who most recently directed biopic Unbroken, is being considered for the latest Marvel Studios project.

Captain Marvel, a.k.a. Carol Danvers, is one of the highest-profile female superheroes in the Marvel comic-book canon and so the studio has already signed up two of Hollywood's top female screenwriters — Nicole Perlman (who co-wrote Guardians of the Galaxy) and Meg LeFauve — to ensure a faithful transition from page to screen. Although other publications have questioned the validity of the story — Jolie has also been linked with the vacant Wonder Woman director's chair — Collider is standing by its studio sources. AFP

MOVIES IN BRIEF

Most dangerous movie ever made finally makes it to the big screen

"No animals were harmed during the making of Roar. But 70 members of the cast and crew were." So claims a trailer for the theatrical re-release of a little-seen 1981 adventure film starring Tippi Hedren, daughter Melanie Griffith and 150 lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars and elephants.

Touted as the most dangerous movie ever made, Roar was the ill-fated brainchild of Alfred Hitchcock muse Hedren and her then-husband, Exorcist producer Noel Marshall. Years past schedule and millions over budget, Hollywood eventually lost interest in Roar and the film was never released in North America.

Now, 34 years later, Drafthouse Films is giving Roar its big-screen due, re-releasing it in six theatres on Friday, then expanding it to about 50 cities through May. A DVD release is planned for later this summer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gisele struts off into the sunset

Gisele Bundchen celebrates with fellow models after her final show. ANDRE PENNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUPERMODEL

NFLer husband totally fine with runway retirement

Ned Ehrbar
In Hollywood

Gisele Bundchen has officially retired from the runway life, walking her last catwalk in Brazil this week, and her husband, Tom Brady, decided to take the opportunity to let the world know how into her he is.

"I have never met someone with more of a will to succeed and determination to overcome any obstacle in the way," Tom gushed on Facebook — maybe it was supposed to be a private message instead? "You never cease to amaze me. Nobody loves life more than you and your beauty runs much deeper than what the eye can see. I can't wait to see what's next. I love you."

Then he threw in a couple of hashtags — "#GOAT " and "#thebestisyettocome" — because no heartfelt message is complete without hashtags. Not these days, at least.

As for why Bundchen is putting an end to her successful runway modelling career? Her body told her to.

> **Nobody loves life more than you and your beauty runs much deeper than what the eye can see. I can't wait to see what's next.**
>
> Tom Brady in Facebook note to wife Gisele Bundchen

"Automatically my body tells me if what I do is worth it, and it asked to stop," she told Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo. "I respect my body. It's a privilege to be able to stop."

ENGAGED

Nicki Minaj flashes brand new bling

Nicki Minaj is engaged, and she's got the massive heart-shaped ring to prove it! The rapper took to Twitter to reveal the impressive piece of bling given to her by now-fiancé Meek Mill.

"Both Meek and Nicki have been spending amazing quality time together lately and have gotten extremely close these past few months," a source tells E! News.

"It may seem like it all is happening very quickly but Nicki and Meek are in this 100 (per cent). They truly love each other."

And just how impressive is that ring? "This looks like a 15-carat fancy yellow heart modified brilliant cut diamond mounted in platinum with a double halo of white pavé diamonds," jewelry expert Morgan Shara says. "This would retail for approximately $500,000." Damn, girl.

NED EHRBAR/ METRO

MUSIC VIDEO

Statham can't hide from go-go boy past

Somewhere between his professional diving career and being a big, tough movie star in The Expendables, the Transporter series and the upcoming Spy, British tough guy Jason Statham earned a living as ... a go-go dancer in music videos.

Internet sleuths recently uncovered a video for British '90s techno-hippie band The Shamen's Comin' On that features an oiled-up Statham gyrating in just a leopard-print Speedo and some combat boots along with some extremely rudimentary green screen technology.

And man, is he into it. One thing is for sure, he definitely has some moves.

NED EHRBAR/ METRO

IN BRIEF

Sony hack docs now in searchable online archive

Whistleblower site WikiLeaks has put hundreds of thousands of emails and documents from last year's Sony hack into a searchable online archive.

In December, Sony suffered a crippling cyberattack ahead of the release of the movie The Interview, set in North Korean. An unknown organization leaked the documents and other damaging information online, but not in an easily searchable database. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

170K

WikiLeaks says that its database includes more than 170,000 emails from Sony Pictures Entertainment and a subsidiary, plus more than 30,000 other documents.

Lady Antebellum's tour bus catches fire

A tour bus for superstar country group Lady Antebellum caught fire along an interstate near Dallas, but no one was injured.

Singer Hillary Scott posted on the group's Facebook page that she, her husband, their tour manager and the driver were on the Dallas-bound bus when a tire caught fire Thursday morning.

Scott says everyone safely evacuated, writing "EVERYONE IS SAFE AND SOUND." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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COMEDY

Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2

Director: Andy Fickman
Starring: Kevin James, Nick Bakay

After six years of keeping our malls safe, Paul Blart has earned a well-deserved vacation. He heads to Vegas with his teenage daughter before she heads off to college. But safety never takes a holiday.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 0% Audience: +87%

DRAMA

True Story

Director: Rupert Goold
Starring: Jonah Hill, James Franco

When disgraced New York Times reporter Michael Finkel (Jonah Hill) meets accused killer Christian Longo (James Franco) — who has taken on Finkel's identity — his investigation morphs into an unforgettable game of cat-and-mouse. Based on actual events.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 53% Audience: +96%

MYSTERY & HORROR

Unfriended

Director: Levan Gabriadze
Starring: Shelley Hennig, Moses Jacob Storm

Unfriended unfolds over a teenager's computer screen as she and her friends are stalked by an unseen figure who seeks vengeance for a shaming video that led a vicious bully to kill herself a year earlier.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 89% Audience: +91%

ACTION & ADVENTURE

The Dead Lands

Director: Toa Fraser
Starring: George Henare, James Rolleston

Hongi (James Rolleston) — a Maori chieftain's teenage son — must avenge his father's murder in order to bring peace and honour to the souls of his loved ones after his tribe is slaughtered.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 60% Audience: +64%

DOCUMENTARY

Monkey Kingdom

Director: Mark Linfield , Alastair Fothergill

Mark Linfield's nature documentary Monkey Kingdom follows the struggles of a young monkey mother to care for and raise her new baby in the wilds of Southern Asia.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 100% Audience: +83%

DRAMA

Wild Tales

Director: Damián Szifron
Starring: Ricardo Darín, Leonardo Sbaraglia

Inequality, injustice and the demands of the world we live in cause stress and depression for many people. Some of them, however, explode. This is a movie about those people.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 95% Audience: 94%

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metro

Michael Douglas, unhinged

PREMIERE

Acting legend at full throttle in Beyond the Reach thriller

Chris Alexander
Metro | Life

Michael Douglas co-stars in Jean-Baptiste Léonetti's new thriller. CONTRIBUTED/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sitting in a room with Hollywood legend Michael Douglas is a borderline supernatural experience.

Not only is Douglas bona fide cinema royalty (he is the son of the iconic Kirk Douglas and a veteran award-winning actor and producer in his own right), but it was only a few short years ago that he wasn't expected to live, written off as terminal by tabloids and reliable news portals alike as he battled the late stages of a rare kind of throat cancer.

But survive Douglas did and, against all odds, he even thrived, first winning a well-deserved Emmy for his portrayal of Liberace in Steven Soderbergh's Behind the Candelabra, then signing on as the lead in Marvel's upcoming Ant-Man and now, serving as the co-star and producer of director Jean-Baptiste Léonetti's pulse-pounding new thriller Beyond the Reach.

The film (based on a young-adult book called Deathwatch by Robb White) sees Douglas playing a kind of rugged riff on his Wall Street character, Gordon Gekko, as a millionaire game hunter who takes a young man (Jeremy Irvine) with him into the Mojave Desert to hunt a rare big-horned ram. When tragedy strikes, the desperate Douglas turns his target on his protégé, with terrifying results. It's a fine film with a full-throttle, unhinged and unpredictable Douglas performance.

> **Getting one of these indie movies made is never easy.**
> Michael Douglas

"I wanted to do it," Douglas told us at last year's Toronto International Film Festival.

"I was always going to produce it, right from the beginning, but I thought that as far as getting one of these indie movies made, which is never easy anymore, that my presence in the actual movie would be able to add something."

His scenery-devouring turn — over the top, yet always expertly controlled — pushes Beyond the Reach into the abstract. "This character is a West Coast millionaire who has it all and is always in control. But he flips out when pushed too far. When he's pushed to extremes, the beast comes out. I wanted to dissolve into the worst motherf—er alive."

IN BRIEF

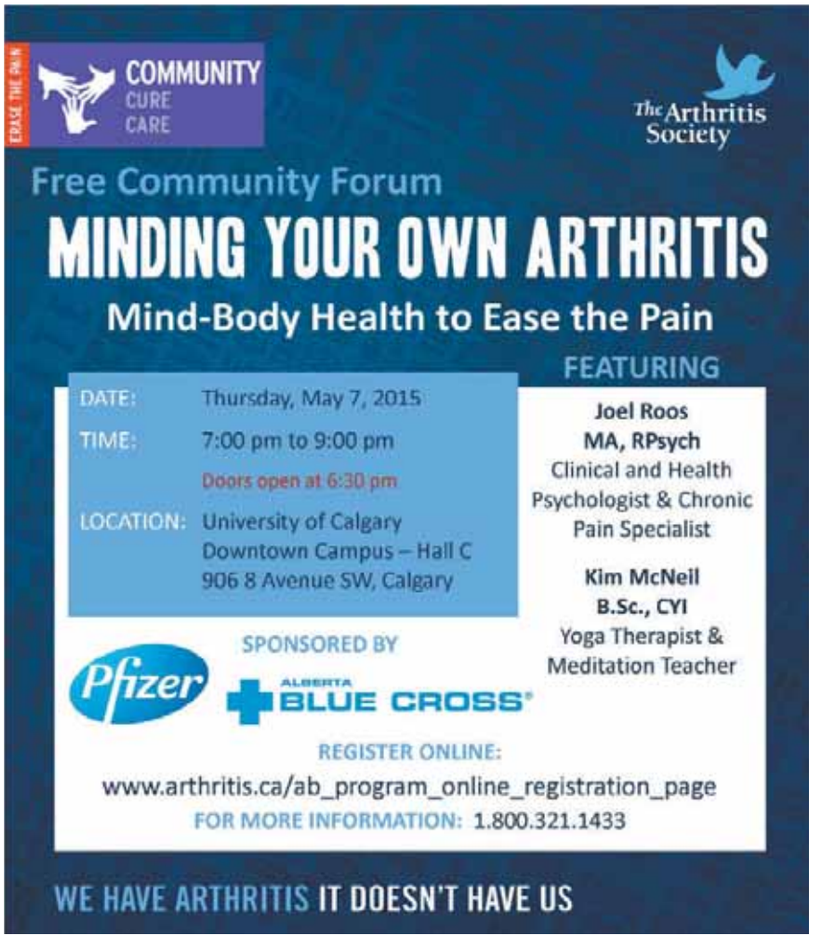
Douglas loves his work, but not the artifice of film

Michael Douglas' broad-strokes performance in Beyond the Reach is offset by stunning location desert photography.

"We shot ... at Shiprock in New Mexico," he says, adding, "If you're going to film in New Mexico, it's essential you get a grip crew locally. These guys were like another species of human being ... (they) go up these mountains, carrying cases and cameras, doing impossible things."

While Douglas still takes joy in working and, post-recovery, has become more prolific, the artifice of cinema leaves him cold. "Too many times I'll watch a film and it ends exactly how I thought it was going to end," he says.

"I love sporting events more because you never know how they will turn out. But after I wrap a film, when it's done, I only watch it once. Only once. And then I'm done. See, I love the process of making movies. Not so much the process of watching them."



Star Wars trailer brings fans to tears

NEW INSTALMENT

Excitement as Chewie, Solo make it home

Hype surrounding the eagerly anticipated Star Wars reboot made the jump to light speed on Thursday as the movie's makers unveiled a new trailer that delighted fans with a glimpse of iconic characters Han Solo and Chewbacca.

The action-packed second trailer for Star Wars: The Force Awakens showed spacecraft dogfights and a chase involving the Millennium Falcon before concluding with the unmistakable voice of Harrison Ford as Solo.

"Chewie, we're home," Solo says to his Wookiee friend, who offers a signature roar in reply before the trailer closes with a shot of the iconic yellow-on-black Star Wars logo.

The trailer was premiered at the Star Wars Celebration convention in Anaheim outside Los Angeles, sending fans who had flocked to the event — many wielding light sabers and wearing full Star Wars regalia — into raptures.

The hashtag #Chewiewerehome was rapidly adopted by fans on Twitter while #StarWars was soon a top trending subject on the social media site as anticipation for the movie, due out on Dec. 18, went into overdrive.

Many fans spoke about tears of joy after the trailer's soaring finale featuring Han Solo and Chewbacca, central characters of the beloved first trilogy of Star Wars films made by George Lucas between 1977 and 1983.

"I'm 41 years old and I cried at the end!" tweeted one fan, sentiments echoed by many after the trailer's release. AFP

The new Star Wars trailer features Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and Chewbacca. AFP

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SOCIAL SECRETARY

From hip hop to the White House

A former hip-hop journalist who became a White House intern in her 30s was named on Thursday as the new White House social secretary.

Deesha Dyer, a Philadelphia native, will oversee planning for everything from the annual Easter Egg Roll attended by tens of thousands of people to opulent state dinners for hundreds, along with numerous receptions, ceremonies and other events that take place daily at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Dyer, 37, started in the social office about two years ago and immediately impressed Michelle Obama with "her passion, creativity, public-mindedness and relentless competence," the first lady said. "Since then, whether helping flawlessly execute state dinners or going the extra mile to open the White House to people who never dreamed they would walk through these doors, Deesha has worked tirelessly to truly make the White House the People's House."

Dyer succeeds Jeremy Bernard, who plans to leave after a state dinner for Japan scheduled for April 28.

Bernard held the social secretary's post for more than four years and was the first male in that job in White House history.

Before starting her career in government, Dyer was an assistant at Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust and a freelance journalist covering East Coast hip-hop culture. She also worked with young adults, created a Philadelphia-based hip-hop AIDS program and as a CARE advocacy volunteer, the White House said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deesha Dyer. CAROLYN KASTER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THEATRE

Duck Dynasty musical premieres in Las Vegas

There is no shortage of beards, camo, hunting and God alongside a bit of recent real-life scandal in Duck Commander Musical.

The Las Vegas show premiered Wednesday and tells the story thus far of a family duck-call business that led to reality show juggernaut Duck Dynasty.

The 90-minute show with Broadway backers alternates between something akin to a live-action commercial celebrating the family business to a mostly cheery singing and dancing scrapbook of the family's tight-knit journey.

Nearly the entire Duck Dynasty family from Louisiana attended the premiere at the Rio hotel and casino, later dining on biscuits and gumbo at an after party.

Missing from the audience and show's development was bearded patriarch Phil Robertson who was quoted vilifying homosexual behaviour in a January 2014 issue of GQ magazine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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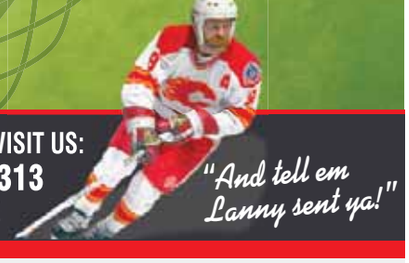

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Alcohol in movies, alcohol in teenagers

STUDY

70 per cent of 15-year-olds more likely to binge drink

Movies and television series in which main characters indulge in alcohol influence teens to do the same a study suggests.

Researchers at the University of Bristol focused on the behaviour of teenagers to study the impact that films heavy on drinking had on them.

For this study, the results of which were published on April 13 in the journal Pediatrics, the researchers studied data sourced from 5,163 15-year-olds.

The researchers interviewed the teens about their drinking habits after asking them how many from a list of 50 movies, ranging from Bridget Jones's Diary to The Aviator, they had seen.

Teens relate to TV and film characters who drink, as they appear cool and likeable, researchers say. ISTOCK

After quantifying total screen time devoted to drinking scenes in each movie, the researchers calculated individual teens' exposure to cinematic drinking. For the purpose of the study, they also took into account several other factors, such as the drinking habits of the teens' parents, gender and social class.

Their conclusions reveal that teens who watched the most on-screen drinking were 20 per cent more likely to be tempted by alcohol and 70 per cent more likely to partake in binge drinking.

Furthermore, the researchers noted that for these teens, the chances of drinking more than once a week were doubled, as were the chances of suffering from alcohol-related problems, including interference with school and work and even encounters with police.

The researchers also noted that between 1989 and 2008, 72 per cent of the most successful box-office hits in the U.K. depicted drinking, yet only 6 per cent were classified as movies for adults. The study concludes that there should be alcohol ratings and warnings similar to those which currently caution for violence and sexual content.

According to the researchers, teens identify with characters that drink who often come across to them as likeable and cool. Since movies don't often show their appealing characters vomiting, hung over, or sick, they concluded that rowdy spring break chugging contests and even demure sips of wine need to be taken more seriously. AFP

TELEVISION IN BRIEF

NatGeo finds its funny bone

The National Geographic Channel, not usually a place you'd look for laughs, is making its first comedy. The network said Wednesday it is making a mini-series, History of the World ... For Now, that takes on the broadest of possible topics with the help of cartoons, puppets and the like. It is expected to air next winter. "I know it may sound like oil and water, but I refuse to believe our sophisticated National Geographic audience is not ready" to experiment with a new genre, said Tim Pastore, the network's president of original programming and production.

The network is making the show with veteran producers John Altschuler and Dave Krinsky.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **I know it may sound like oil and water**
>
> Network boss Tim Pastore

Our Planet collaborator the World Wildlife Fund. ISTOCK

Sequel in the works for Planet Earth

The sweeping documentary series Planet Earth is getting a sequel.

Our Planet will focus on the Earth's last wilderness areas and the animals living there, the project's British producers said this week.

The filmmakers said they plan to use digital camera technology as they venture from the planet's ice caps to ocean depths to deserts and remote forests.

Audiences will have to be patient: The eight-part series will take four years to make and is planned for a 2019 debut for Netflix customers internationally.

Our Planet is being produced by U.K.-based Silverback Films in collaboration with independent conservation group World Wildlife Fund. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Goodall's crusade for chimps goes on

NATURE FILM

Primatologist hopes film will ignite kids' imagination

When Jane Goodall was a child, her mother took her to see one of the many Tarzan movies, starring loincloth-clad Johnny Weissmuller with his famous yodelling call as the infant raised to adulthood by fictional great apes.

"I burst into tears and she had to take me out," the primatologist and arguably the world's leading expert on wild chimpanzees recalls. "That wasn't Tarzan ... my Tarzan was my own imagination from reading the (Edgar Rice Burroughs) books."

At 81, Goodall is determined to continue igniting the imagination of youngsters, nurturing new generations of conservationists.

Goodall talked to Torstar News at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto Sunday prior to introducing the latest Disneynature animal film, Monkey Kingdom, at a TIFF Kids screening. The movie opens Friday.

Although Goodall took no part in making Monkey Kingdom, she is a Disneynature Ambassador, making occasional appearances when films in the series screen.

She may have done countless interviews and photo shoots during her lengthy career as a researcher and activist but having her picture taken is clearly the least favourite part of Goodall's work. "I'd rather go to the dentist," she said with a slight smile of resignation.

She's constantly travelling, making public appearances and speeches, encouraging kids to get involved with her Roots & Shoots global conservation program and making twice yearly working visits to Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park and the research institute that bears her name.

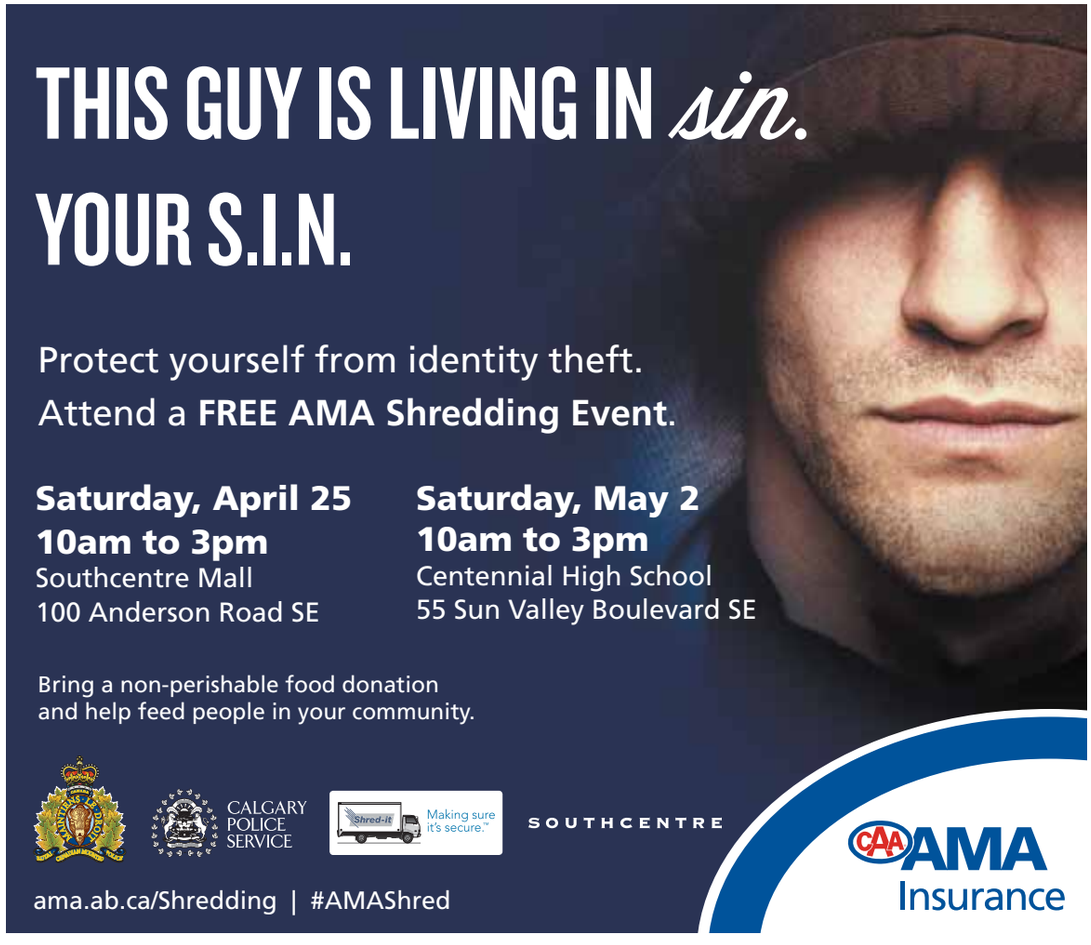
It's where Goodall began her research 55 years ago.

"I felt I was so lucky to have the forest and the chimps to myself all those years. It was amazing," Goodall recalled of the first decades following her arrival in 1960.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A scene from the latest Disneynature film, Monkey Kingdom. CONTRIBUTED

Jane Goodall. CONTRIBUTED



IN HER NATURE

Goodall on Disney giving film animals human traits

Narrated by Tina Fey, Monkey Kingdom follows a troupe of macaque monkeys in Sri Lanka, focusing on a young mother called Maya.

Goodall said the hierarchical society and social climbing that weaves through Monkey Kingdom is not common to chimpanzees but it is similar to baboons, which are also studied at Gombe.

She isn't concerned with Disney's fondness for anthropomorphizing animals onscreen.

"When people start describing certain things in animals, people say 'You've given them human traits.' The point is, they have them anyway, you just describe it."

Goodall speaks passionately about ethical consumerism, against genetically modified foods and protecting the environment. She has no plans to slow down.

"I can't," Goodall said, "because I know that wherever I go it makes an impact, wherever I go people say, 'You've given me hope. I'll do my bit.'

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CANADIAN FILM

Director thrilled film Sicario chosen for Cannes

Quebec film director Denis Villeneuve's longtime dream has come true.

His star-studded English-language project Sicario is headed to the Cannes Film Festival and will vie for the Palme d'or against 16 other films, including Todd Haynes's Carol, Paolo Sorrentino's Youth, and Gus Van Sant's The Sea of Trees.

For the maker of films including Prisoners, Polytechnique and the Oscar-nominated Incendies, the selection for the prestigious festival is a thrill. "It's a big cliché, but Cannes is Cannes," Villeneuve told a news conference in Montreal on Thursday.

"I'm really moved that I'll be able to participate this year with this film and I wasn't expecting to be chosen."

Villeneuve's latest feature is set along the border between Mexico and the United States and follows an FBI agent tackling the brutal world of international drug trafficking.

Sicario stars Emily Blunt, Benicio Del Toro and Josh Brolin and is set for release in September.

Villeneuve, 47, was particularly happy with the selection — he found out about it three weeks ago — given the difficulty he encountered in funding the venture.

"It wasn't easy to finance at the outset because it's a very dark film," he said. "It's a dark poem, pretty violent and whose (main) protagonist is a woman. It saddens me, as a director, that it's not easy, still today, to make films with a female as the main character." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Director Denis Villeneuve. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sequels that really sucked

Chris Alexander
Metro | Life

Back in 2009, this critic drew the short straw and was assigned by my cruel editor to cover the movie Paul Blart: Mall Cop. The film featured King of Queens star Kevin James as an overweight, simple-minded, Segway-riding mall security guard with delusions of grandeur who ends up foiling a bank robbery and getting the girl. The film is as flat as can be: a laugh-free, dim-bulb wallow in "fat guy" humour and tacky action set pieces.

But Blart went on to become a surprise box-office hit. And now, five years later, James is back in his button-straining white work shirt, wheeling through the running time of Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2. And lo and behold, here we are again, dear Metro readers, me drawing the short straw and you reading my words.

But this time, instead of riffing on the film itself, we've opted to turn our attention to a slew of other studio sequels that nobody asked for. Some are followups to iconic films that should have remained one-shots; some are companions to pictures that weren't very good to begin with. But one thing's for sure: all of them stink!

Staying Alive

Travolta may have sat Grease 2 out, but he showed up for director Sylvester Stallone's wildly awful followup to Saturday Night Fever. In it, Travolta's macho doofus Tony is still strutting around NYC and still angst ridden, but this time he's gunning for his big Broadway break. Said break is an operatic dance number called Satan's Alley that is perhaps the most bloated and ridiculous spectacle you'll ever see. Stallone's brother Frank wrote the music. And it's not good.

An American Werewolf in Paris

John Landis' 1981 classic An American Werewolf in London is a fascinating horror/comedy hybrid full of stark terror, imagination, eroticism and heart as well as revolutionary Rick Baker designed makeup gags. This limp, belated and virtually unrelated sequel has none of these qualities, armed as it is with a chemistry-free cast, shoddy digital effects and no atmosphere whatsoever. Blech!

Grease 2

The original Grease was and remains an immaculate confection, with endlessly singable tunes, John Travolta in peak form and groovy dance numbers. The woefully inept, Travolta-free, Grease 2 has a young Michelle Pfeiffer doing her best to make songs about how awesome bowling is, work. She can't...

The Pink Panther 2

Steve Martin once more insults the memory of Peter Sellers' patented Inspector Clouseau from the classic Pink Panther films. As bad as Martin is here, the criminal waste of a great supporting cast is far worse. The scene in which Martin and French legend Jean Reno dance around the kitchen singing "jojoba" will have you pining for the comedic heights of Paul Blart!

Disney shows such as Phineas and Ferb are to move from the Family Channel. DISNEY CHANNEL

Disney, Corus strike a deal

DISTRIBUTION

Agreement to put popular kids' shows on new channel

Canadian parents may find themselves channel surfing to find their children's favourite TV shows this fall, as a line-up of Disney programs move to a different home under a new distribution agreement announced yesterday.

Starting in September, Corus Entertainment will become the first Canadian company to offer the Disney Channel, adding a new layer of confusion to the already muddled rights ownership of U.S. content in Canada.

For decades, kids have turned to the Family Channel to catch episodes of Disney's most famous shows, including cartoons such as Phineas and Ferb and live-action favourites such as Wizards of Waverly Place and Hannah Montana.

Soon they're going to have to flip elsewhere, as all of the latest Disney shows migrate to the new Canadian Disney Channel, leaving the Family Channel with a schedule of almost entirely different shows next year.

"While Disney programming has aired before in Canada, this is the first time Canadian audiences will be treated to the full Disney Channel experience," Corus said yesterday.

The arrival of Disney Channel comes after a number of Canada's most-prized kids channels swapped hands last year. Family Channel was passed to DHX after the creator and distributor of kids' programs got CRTC permission to buy three specialty TV channels that Bell Media was required to sell when it bought Astral Media.

As part of that transaction, DHX also acquired the Canadian versions of two Disney Junior channels in English and French and Disney XD — each providing specific kids demographics with a variety of Canadian shows sandwiched between Disney programs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LAUNCH DATES

Coming this fall

DHX plans to launch Family Junior and Famille Junior, aimed at kids aged 2 to 6, and Family XTRM, for viewers 6 to 12, in November. Current and new series will be featured on Disney Channel when the service launches Sept. 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MUSIC

Paul Walker 'tribute' song hits 21.9 million streams in week

Paul Walker in Furious 7.
RELAX NEWS

Wiz Khalifa's See you Again is the first track to hit 4.2 million streams in a single day.

The song, which also features Charlie Puth, was recorded for the Furious 7 soundtrack and plays towards the movie's end as the audience bids its final on-screen farewell to actor Paul Walker and his character Brian.

Furious 7 looks set to continue breaking box-office records, while the song most closely associated with it is also on its way to setting new ones. As well as being played more than 4 million times in a day, the track now holds the Spotify record for most streams in a week — 21.9 million and is sitting in the No. 1 position on the Spotify chart in 26 countries.

"All the forces have aligned to create a song that is resonating emotionally with millions around the world," said Craig Kallman, chairman of Atlantic Records. AFP

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TV BLIND TO THE DANGER?

Taking big risks

Another trend is that reality TV programs appear to be competing with each other to come up with ever more dangerous activities to put their contestants through.

The "fear factor" is what counts, says TV expert Virginia Mouseler, in shows such as Bullseye, where contestants are catapulted into the air by a giant elastic band, made to stand on the roof of a moving van or dragged through fire.

Blindfolded from Sweden blindfolds its contestants and places them in increasingly terrifying situations — which they have to face — all for a prize of $50,000.

But there are no prizes in The Raft, from the U.S. — just the satisfaction of surviving. Contestants are put in a raft without food or water and have to survive for a week in shark-infested waters. AFP

The crazy world of reality TV

TRENDS

Birthing ladies and priests looking for love just some on-tap ideas

Naked and stripped of all possessions in an empty flat, what will you choose to have back first: clothes or food?

That's the idea behind Stripped, a new reality TV show from Denmark — one of many weird and wonderful concepts unveiled in the French Riviera resort of Cannes at a gathering of top TV bosses.

Viewers can look forward this year to love-sick priests, super-talented child musicians, manhunts, puppet competitions and ever more dangerous challenges, said TV expert Virginia Mouseler of The Wit, a television consultancy.

The market for reality TV ideas — "formats" in the professional jargon — is worth a staggering $2.1 billion.

A key trend in this year's crop: classical music.

The British series The Choir — in which contestants with little singing experience come together for professional training before a live performance — enjoyed huge success and is spawning spinoffs.

In the Netherlands, The Orchestra of the Nation picks up the same idea, following 65 amateur musicians who come together to play in Amsterdam's biggest concert hall.

Artistic talent is also brought to the fore in "prodigies," a hit on French TV last year, where children compete in the classical arts of music, singing and dance.

As in other areas of life, sex sells — even in unexpected quarters.

Pray for Love from Sweden follows the amorous adventures of priests looking for earthly love.

And Father Pride follows the fortunes of gay sons and their disapproving fathers. It builds up to the gay pride march in Buenos Aires, where the key question is whether the father will join his son or not.

Other shows unveiled at the Cannes shindig ranged from the insane to the downright ridiculous.

A Hungarian show invites participants to get as drunk as possible — with a breath test to make sure they are actually tipsy — and then perform a series of tricky challenges.

Audience participation is the key in Run!, where contestants are hunted down by detectives and receive tips via Twitter from those watching at home.

The Puppet Show from the Netherlands is exactly what the name suggests — a puppet talent show, presented, of course, by a puppet.

But the top prize for the most extreme reality TV show must go to Labor Games from the U.S. Women about to go into labour are surprised by a TV crew who rush in and ask them a series of questions. The prize? Presents for their as-yet unborn child. AFP

This ain't no Survivor! The Raft plops people into shark-infested waters without food or water. CONTRIBUTED

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Trans voices gaining ground

DISCRIMINATION

Community seeks beefed-up human rights protection

When actress Laverne Cox of TV's Orange Is the New Black became the first transgender person to make the cover of Time magazine, it represented a watershed moment for those who have often chosen obscurity over visibility — and for good reason.

Long feared and misunderstood by mainstream society, transgender and gender-nonconforming people are often targets of mockery, discrimination and violence, making them one of the most marginalized groups in the world.

But increasingly, transgender folk are choosing to step out from the shadows and voice their demands for acceptance, insisting the world has nothing to fear from them and that they're just like everyone else.

Their campaign for human rights protection under the law may represent the final frontier in the fight against sex-based discrimination.

"What we're seeing is a move towards centring and foregrounding of trans voices and experiences," says Ryan Dyck of the LGBTQ advocacy organization Egale Canada.

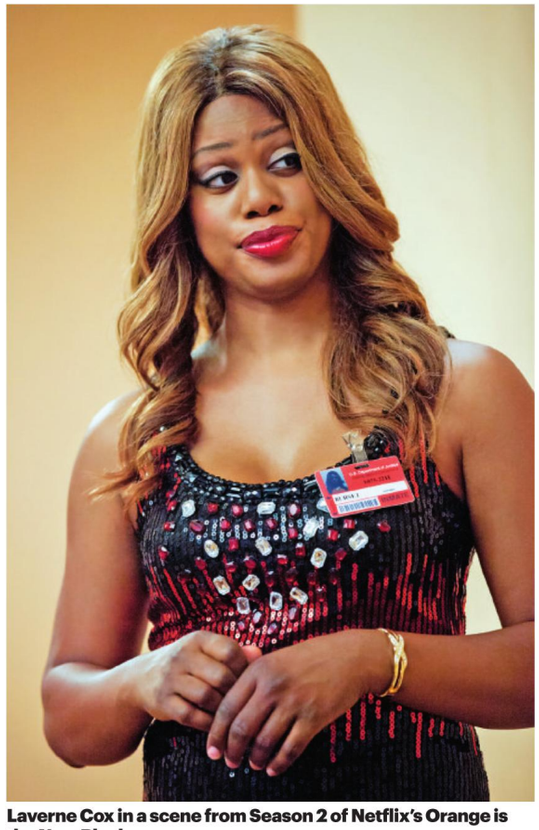
"It can be very dangerous for a lot of trans people to come out, but for those who feel safe doing so or have the ability to do so, it's really important."

Brae Carnes, a 23-year-old from Victoria who identifies as a trans woman, became an activist over what she sees as the gutting of Bill C-279, which would add "gender identity" to both the Criminal Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act.

The bill passed in the Commons two years ago, but languished in the Senate until February, when the upper chamber introduced several amendments. The most controversial was championed by Conservative Sen. Donald Plett, which could in effect prohibit transgender people from entering any single-sex washroom, change room or abuse shelter under federal jurisdiction.

Dubbed the "Bathroom Bill," the amended C-279 would stop anyone barred from such a facility due to gender identity from filing a human rights complaint for discrimination.

Plett argued the amendment would protect "vulnerable women" who had been victims of domestic violence from being retraumatized by the sight of a biological male and prevent male sexual predators dressed up as females from gaining access to women and girls.



Laverne Cox in a scene from Season 2 of Netflix's Orange is the New Black. JESSICA MIGLIO FOR NETFLIX

"I was so angry that I thought if this is what this guy wants, I'm just going to give it to him and show him how stupid it is," says Carnes, who began taking selfie photos in men's washrooms and posting them on social media.

One shows her with a sign reading, "Plett put me here." Another features a decidedly feminine Carnes applying lipstick in the mirror against a bank of urinals in the background.

"This is not just about girls in the men's washroom," Carnes says. "It's about the fact that Donald Plett derailed Bill C-279, and in doing so he is robbing us of being protected (from hate crimes) under the Criminal Code."

The bill has gone back to the Commons, but is unlikely to be debated before MPs' summer break and it could die on the order paper if a fall election is called. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN THE CODE

Explicit protections needed: Legal aid lawyer

In 2004, the Northwest Territories was the first jurisdiction in Canada to amend its human rights code to explicitly include gender identity, since followed by Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, P.E.I., Newfoundland and Labrador, and Saskatchewan. Protection under the other provinces' and territories' codes are implicit.

"Part of the reason why explicit protections are so important is because people don't know protections exist when they're buried in case law or in policies," says trans woman and legal aid lawyer Nicole Nussbaum. "But when they're explicit in legislation, they're included in human rights educational materials, in the tracking of complaints, so there's a better idea of how many have experienced human rights issues."

SURVEY

E-cig, hookah use up among teens; regular smoking down

Teen smoking hit a new low in the U.S. last year while the popularity of electronic cigarettes and water pipes boomed, a government report shows.

The number of high school students who tried e-cigarettes tripled in one year — to more than 13 per cent. Water pipes or hookahs were used by 9.4 per cent.

But smoking of traditional cigarettes plummeted to 9.2 per cent from more than 13 per cent. That means smoking in high school is now less common than e-cigarette or hookah use.

The decline in cigarette smoking "is very dramatic and very encouraging," said Robin Koval, president of Legacy, an anti-smoking organization.

The report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mirrors the results of another government-funded study issued in December.

Students were asked whether they had smoked or used a tobacco product in the previous 30 days; those who said yes were deemed current smokers.

Smoking of traditional cigarettes among U.S. students has plummeted, according to a CDC report. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

22,000

The CDC report is based on a national survey of about 22,000 students at middle schools and high schools, both public and private. Similar trends were found for middle school but at lower levels of use.

Besides cigarettes, the report found continuing declines in the use of cigars, chewing tobacco and snuff among high school students.

CDC director Dr. Tom Frieden this week described the findings as "alarming." He said the decline in use of most tobacco products was more than offset by the growth in nicotine-laden e-cigarettes and hookahs.

Some public health experts say the CDC is taking an unusually hard stand against e-cigarettes, at a time when scientists still trying to determine how harmful they are. They started selling in the U.S. in 2006 and are often described as a less dangerous alternative to cigarettes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Survey: Majority of Vegas tourists married, 45 years old, one-third from California

East Nashville finds its groove

TENNESSEE

Stroll among eclectic mix of eateries, coffee shops, stores

A trip to Nashville wouldn't be complete without a visit to the honky-tonks of lower Broadway and a pilgrimage to the "mother church of country music," the Ryman Auditorium, but once you've hit those, consider a trip across the river to Nashville's hippest neighbourhood.

East Nashville started out as a separate city of country estates, enjoying a post-Civil War boom in the 1870s and 1880s, according to local historian and East Nashville resident Jim Hoobler.

Beginning in 1916, a huge fire, the Great Depression and flight to the suburbs took their toll. Restoration of the area's many Victorian homes and bungalows began in the 1970s, and has helped turn it into one of the city's most desirable neighbourhoods.

Eat, drink and walk Nashville

Today, visitors can easily spend a day or more sampling East Nashville's boutiques, restaurants, brew pubs and clubs. There are too many fun spots to list them all, but a good place to start is the pedestrian-friendly Five Points neighbourhood.

Here Marché Artisan Foods (1000 Main St.) serves up a European-style seasonal menu in a sunny room that is always packed. In addition to sit-down meals, Marché sells baked goods and locally sourced packaged food.

Chef Margot McCormack has another popular restaurant nearby, Margot Café and Bar (1017 Woodland St.), which serves rustic French and Italian cuisine for dinner and Sunday brunch. Reservations can be hard to get, but sometimes there's room at the bar.

A cheaper, humbler meal can be found at I Dream of Weenie (113 S. 11th St.), a hotdog restaurant run out of an old Volkswagen bus. Across the street is the Pied Piper Creamery (114 S. 11th St.), where a signature flavour is Trailer Trash: vanilla ice cream with Oreo, Twix, Butterfinger, Nestle Crunch, Snickers, M&Ms and Reese's Pieces.

New York-style Five Points Pizza (1012 Woodland St.) offers a good selection of local and regional craft beers.

For shopping, a row of tiny boutiques called The Idea Hatchery (1108 Woodland St.) includes everything from an all-local bookstore (East Side Story) to a gourmet oatmeal shop (Haulin' Oats) with lots of vintage and kitsch in between.

Another cluster of boutiques, The Shoppes on Fatherland (1006 Fatherland St.), is within walking distance. Or rent a bicycle for the trip from the nearby Nashville B-cycle station (109 S. 11th St.). Basic rentals are $5 for the first hour, $1.50 each additional half-hour.

Don't miss Jones Fly Co., where workers tie feathers and animal hair around tiny hooks, making mock bug lures that anglers use to fool fish.

For a moment of calm, visit High Garden, selling both traditional teas and herbal infusions with names such as "overworked," "warrior blend" and "airway to heaven." Take a bag to go or share a pot with a friend in the small seating area. There's a selection of books and games for the tables, but laptops are not allowed. Yes, you read that correctly.

"This is not a place to escape, it's a place to be," co-owner Leah Larabell explains.

'Southern artisan chocolate'

Six blocks away is Olive and Sinclair Chocolate Co. (1628 Fatherland St.), where Scott Witherow roasts, stone-grinds and sells what he calls "Southern artisan chocolate." If it's a Saturday, you can tour the factory for $5, including your very own hairnet.

At Barista Parlor (519 B Gallatin Ave.), the coffees have complicated back stories and can be served cold with mixers that make them feel more like cocktails. Food includes inventive house-made "Pop's Tarts," doughnuts and macaroons.

Mas Tacos Por Favor (732 Mcferrin Ave.), an eastside lunchtime favourite, serves great Mexican street food and aguas frescas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEFORE YOU GO
Check out Nashville at visitmusiccity.com/Visitors

Across the Cumberland River from downtown, East Nashville is the hippest part of the city (top), where Leah Larabell mixes tea at High Garden (bottom left), and handmade flies are on display at Jones Fly Company. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OUTDOORS

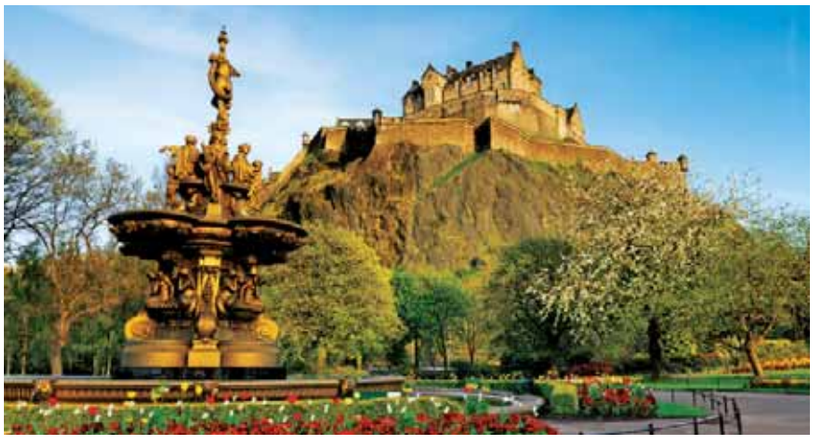
After all that food, burn a few calories by checking out a free bike from Shelby Bottoms Nature Center (1900 Davidson St.) and riding the 950-acre Shelby Bottoms Park's greenway next to the Cumberland River. The adjoining Shelby Park offers another 336 acres complete with nine- and 18-hole golf courses.

Or travel west along the river to Cumberland Park. Just a walking-bridge away from downtown, this kid-friendly spot includes a "sprayground" where jets of water offer relief on hot summer days.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 INTERACTIVE MAPS TO WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AUTHORS

A recently launched map allows users to discover Edinburgh via its literary history, while an ongoing mapping project getting buzz this week delves into Shakespeare-era London. With these interactive maps, the world's literary capitals are just a click away. AFP

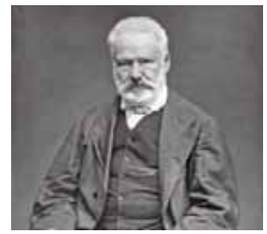


Edinburgh as seen by Scott and Stevenson

Launched late last month, Lit Long: Edinburgh incorporates nearly 550 novels, stories, memoirs and journals focusing on the 19th and early 20th centuries — Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson and Muriel Spark all appear — but also tying in works by the likes of Alexander McCall Smith and Irvine Welsh. The map is the visual, interactive output of the Palimpsest project, created to mine texts such as these. **litlong.org**

Shakespeare's London

Prof. Janelle Jenstad of the University of Victoria is behind the Map of Early Modern London (MoEML), which uses a 1560s woodcut map of London known as the "Agas" map and overlays it with references to people, places, topics and terms to provide a virtual visit of Shakespeare-era London. The Atlantic's CityLab featured the map this week. **mapoflondon.uvic.ca/dev/agas.htm**



The France of Hugo and Flaubert

You may need to brush up on your French for this one, but Cartographie littéraire de la France by the Strasbourg bookstore Ivres de Livres covers the rich literary past of not just Paris but of the country as a whole. Follow Victor Hugo (pictured) and Émile Zola through the streets of Paris, or see Normandy as Flaubert depicted it in Madame Bovary. **cartographie-litteraire.net**

San Francisco, city of Beats

The San Francisco Chronicle has created The Literary City, with references from The Kite Runner, The Joy Luck Club (by Amy Tan, pictured), The Maltese Falcon and A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius all matched to their location in the city, and a number of key Beat hangouts all given their due. **sfchronicle.com/theliterarycity**

TRAVEL TIPS

River cruise woos young and old alike with full itineraries

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

A stateroom on the Avalon Tranquility II. PETER REMUS/FOR METRO

A recent trip on the inaugural cruise of the Avalon Tranquility II has been an Ivy League crash course in one of the fastest-growing trends in the travel industry, river cruising.

Based on my abbreviated four-day itinerary from the stunning castle-land of Germany's Rhine River gorge through to Basel, Switzerland, I offer this quick tutorial on River Cruising 101.

River ships are not a floating senior citizens' home. Longer itineraries will likely have more retirees on board due to the time commitment, but that doesn't mean it's not a great experience for younger folks. Once you factor in the cost of doing a similar trip on your own, accommodation, meals (including wine with dinner), excursions, entertainment and transportation, the value proposition is excellent.

It has been a welcome surprise that many of the excursions are not geared toward the sedentary set. Pack your walking shoes and be prepared to cover some ground.

Size does matter. Due to infrastructure restrictions, such as the height of bridges and size of locks, the ships plying the rivers of Europe will never be larger than 135 metres long, 11.4 metres wide and a hair more than 6 metres high. That translates to an average of 140 people on any given ship.

Benefit of small ship

Those used to large ship cruising can say goodbye to long lines to embark, disembark or simply enjoy a meal. These small ships also provide easy access to the destinations, where you can wander into town from the dock at your leisure.

Not all river ships are created equal. When booking, ask questions on the benefits and restrictions of your ship. For example, a big selling feature for some companies is the addition of balconies off of the staterooms. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions on ship width, this means ships with balconies have smaller staterooms. I prefer Avalon's panorama suite model, which offers 200 sq. ft. of spacious stateroom minus the balcony.

It's just civilized. Settling into a stateroom, unpacking once, stopping at fairy tale-like villages and sharing stories over dinner with likeminded travellers are all part of the experience.

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Your essential daily news

Usain Bolt confirmed in Rio Thursday that the 2016 Olympics will indeed be his last

Sam Bennett was selected fourth overall in last year's draft but was hindered to begin this season by a shoulder injury. MARIANNE HELM/GETTY IMAGES

Bennett makes instant impact

NHL

'Fearless' personality impresses Flames coach

Earlier this season while rehabbing his surgically repaired shoulder, Sam Bennett wouldn't leave Calgary Flames head coach Bob Hartley alone.

"Probably the biggest pain I have coached," Hartley said with a smile Thursday. "Like every day he was coming to me wanting to be in practice, wanting to be in pre-game warmups, and stuff like this."

The fourth overall pick at last June's draft, Bennett went to training camp with the Flames in the fall and stayed in Calgary after having a procedure done on his injured shoulder.

He eventually returned to the Ontario Hockey League's Kingston Frontenacs, but when their season ended earlier this month he was eligible to rejoin the Flames. The 18-year-old suited up against the Winnipeg Jets last Saturday in his first professional game before making his NHL playoff debut in dramatic fashion on Wednesday night.

Bennett was the Flames' best forward for long stretches as Calgary battled back from a goal down in the third period on the road to beat the Vancouver Canucks 2-1 and grab a 1-0 series lead in their Western Conference quarter-final.

"Fearless is part of his personality," said Hartley. "When you are talking about a fearless kid, a kid who wants to learn, a kid that wants to compete, thank God we got him in the lineup."

> **"Yes, you need talent, you need speed, but you need character and this kid is full of dynamite.**
> Bob Hartley

Calgary didn't confirm Bennett would dress in Game 1 against Vancouver until after the warmups, but he played nearly 15 minutes while setting up Kris Russell's winner with 29.6 seconds left in regulation.

"I have a lot of confidence in myself and I wasn't afraid to make mistakes in the offensive zone," said Bennett, who turns 19 in June. "I'm a guy that is going to take the puck to the net and I am not going to shy away from anyone. I definitely didn't try to change anything in my game and I just did my thing."

Canucks head coach Willie Desjardins said Bennett's performance will give him something to consider ahead of Game 2 on Friday night at Rogers Arena prior to the series shifting to Calgary.

"He was pretty good," said Desjardins. "We knew they were a deep team and they had a lot of different weapons. They showed it in that game."

Bennett was criticized at the NHL combine before the draft for failing to do a single pull-up in fitness testing, but Hartley said there was legitimate reason.

"There were many reports the kid was not a good worker and couldn't do pull-ups," he said.

"When your shoulder is broken in pieces, but you won't tell anyone because you are a competitor and you want to be there, I think that speaks volumes about his character." THE CANADIAN PRESS

24

Bennett tallied 24 points (11 goals and 13 assists) in just 11 games with the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs this season

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Derick Brassard scores against Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury in Game 1 of the Rangers' first-round series on Thursday night at Madison Square Garden. GETTY IMAGES

Rangers too clever for Penguins

NHL PLAYOFFS

Pittsburgh aces Malkin and Crosby kept quiet once again

Derick Brassard and Ryan McDonagh scored in the first period and Henrik Lundqvist made the goals stand up as the New York Rangers won the opener of their playoff series with the Pittsburgh Penguins 2-1 Thursday night.

New York shut down Pittsburgh's top threats, Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, for a fourth straight victory over the Penguins in the post-season.

The Rangers won the final three games of a second-round series last year, rallying from a 3-1 deficit. In compiling the best record in the NHL, the Rangers finished 15 points ahead of Pittsburgh in the Eastern Conference. But after the first period, these were two very even teams, with Lundqvist and Penguins goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury particularly outstanding. Lundqvist finished with 24 saves, while Fleury was far busier in making 36.

Blake Comeau scored in the second period for Pittsburgh.

Game 2 is in New York on Saturday night.

Brassard got things started only 28 seconds in when Fleury sent the rebound of Rick Nash's hard slap shot directly into the slot. Brassard was uncovered for a quick wrist shot, the centre screaming in delight as the puck went in.

The Garden fans were celebrating again late in the period when New York's slumping power play connected. On its third of four man-advantages — and the only one that threatened — in the opening 20 minutes, McDonagh's slapper from midpoint sneaked past Fleury.

Although New York kept control early in the second period, Comeau lifted the Penguins within one, knocking in a rebound with congestion around Lundqvist's crease for his first career playoff goal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Wings edge Lightning

Pavel Datsyuk scored twice and Petr Mrazek had 44 saves in his NHL playoff debut to help the Detroit Red Wings beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-2 in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference series Thursday night.

Datsyuk scored on two of the first four shots the Red Wings got against Tampa Bay's Ben Bishop. Luke Glendening's short-handed goal gave Detroit a 3-1 lead early in the third period.

Mrazek gave up a short-handed goal to Brian Boyle in the first period and a late goal to Nikita Nesterov that enabled the Bolts to pull within one. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Murray wants Subban ban for Stone slash

Rising star Mark Stone's health is "very questionable" for the rest of the first round of NHL playoffs, and the Ottawa Senators are not happy with how it happened. General manager Bryan Murray said Thursday that Stone suffered a microfracture of his right wrist and some ligament damage from a slash by the Montreal Canadiens' P.K. Subban in the series opener.

There was no official word from the NHL on whether Subban will be suspended, but some reports said the league decided no further discipline was needed. He was given a major penalty and a game misconduct for the slash at 8:23 of the second period of Montreal's 4-3 victory.

The incident may ramp up emotion for Game 2 of the best-of-seven series on Friday night at the Bell Centre. Murray said a suspension was warranted because of the injury. He also suggested it was a premeditated attack on Ottawa's hottest scorer, which Subban denied.

"The disturbing part from our point of view is that there was a threat made before by Subban to Stone," said Murray. "There were two attempts on faceoffs to slash him, one connected. It's a huge loss."

He said the league should investigate whether Subban threatened Stone. Subban felt the officials made the right call, but added: "I've never threatened anybody out there.

"I don't think I would. I'm not really the toughest guy out there without my gloves on."

Stone was skating near the Montreal net during a second period power play when Subban gave him a two-handed chop on the wrist. Stone went down in pain, then rushed off the ice. He came back later in the period, left again, then returned during the third. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Raptors not short on belief

NBA

Canadian team confident after last season's playoff run

Masai Ujiri didn't have to hurl profanities to fire back. He just gave a wink and a nod to the last time he did, when his Toronto Raptors were greener and perhaps less sure of themselves; when he dropped that F-bomb to announce the team's arrival as a playoff contender and demand the respect of the NBA world.

One year later, here he was, general manager of the best-performing Raptors team ever, answering to disparaging comments from their first round opponent's veteran superstar, Paul Pierce of the Washington Wizards.

"I honestly don't have enough money to respond to him," said Ujiri, referring to how he was fined $25,000 for his "f-- Brooklyn" rallying cry last spring.

"But if I did have enough money," he continued with a wry smile, "I think everybody knows how I would respond to it, and how the whole of Toronto would respond."

The team GM spoke at a pre-playoffs press conference on Thursday, a sort of state of the union whose thrust was that, this time around, the Raptors are more confident, more experienced and readier for the first round, which begins with Game 1 against the Wizards at the Air Canada Centre on Saturday afternoon.

Raptors president and general manager Masai Ujiri was careful not to drop any F-bombs during a news conference in Toronto on Thursday. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **I love these guys. They're fearless. They want to play. They want to go out and compete.**
> Masai Ujiri

The Raptors wrapped up the regular season on Wednesday with their 49th win of the year, marking a new franchise victory record.

And while Toronto swept the Wizards in three games this year, the playoffs are a different beast altogether, as many members of this team now know, having fallen to Brooklyn in seven games last year, Ujiri said.

"Just being in the playoffs, it's such a different season, the intensity and what's at stake," he said, adding that he believes team leaders like Kyle Lowry, Amir Johnson and DeMar DeRozan have a better understanding of that post-season mindset.

"Last year we were underdogs," Ujiri said. "We're not underdogs anymore. We want to play and we hope, going forward, this is normal for us and we're excited about this time of the year." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NBA IN BRIEF

Starting again

Sweet-shooting Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors have the NBA's best record, an unmatched home-court advantage, and the understanding that all means nothing now.

"We had a great home record and did some historic things, but that doesn't get you any extra points in the playoffs," Curry said.

> **Sometimes I think it's crazy, like, 'Who does something like this?'**
> Anthony Davis, referring to some of the gaudy stats he posted on his way to averaging 24.4 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.9 blocks per game with the New Orleans Pelicans in the regular season. The rising star will make his playoff debut against league-best Golden State.

Big matchup in Texas

The reward for James Harden and the Rockets after earning the No. 2 seed? A matchup against a Dallas team that won 50 games.

The Rockets outscored the Mavericks just 402-398 in their four meetings.

James back to Boston

LeBron James is back with the Cavaliers, back in the playoffs, back against the Celtics. Of course. Boston ended James' first run with Cleveland in 2010, remember. So how perfect is it that James' second quest to deliver a title to championship-starved Northeast Ohio starts with Boston?

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday

The NBA playoffs begin with four games: Washington visits Toronto before the Warriors host Anthony Davis and the New Orleans Pelicans. After that come two short trips: Milwaukee travels to Chicago and Dallas heads to Houston.

Sunday

On Sunday, Atlanta hosts Brooklyn, Portland visits Memphis, and the Los Angeles Clippers welcome San Antonio for the opener of what appears to be the marquee first-round series. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Phelps fast in his return from suspension

Michael Phelps qualified fastest in the 100-metre butterfly Thursday at his first meet in eight months.

The 18-time Olympic gold medallist touched first in 52.92 seconds at the meet in a Phoenix suburb.

Phelps has returned to competition for the first time since serving a six-month suspension for his second drunken driving arrest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Phelps
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Peterson reinstated

Adrian Peterson has been cleared to return to the NFL. Now all that remains to be settled is where he will play next season.

Commissioner Roger Goodell sent the Minnesota Vikings star a letter on Thursday advising him of his reinstatement. Peterson missed most of last season while facing child abuse charges in Texas.

Goodell wrote that Peterson will have to fulfil all the obligations of his plea deal that reduced a felony charge to a misdemeanour.

Goodell also told Peterson he would have to continue attending counselling while adhering to the league's new personal conduct policy to avoid further discipline.

"Any further violation of the personal conduct policy by Peterson would result in additional discipline, which could include suspension without pay or banishment from the NFL," the league said.

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Peterson's salary for 2015. The Vikings have leverage with his contract, which covers the next three years, but none of the remaining money is guaranteed.

Peterson's agent has said the star running back wants to play elsewhere next season. But the Vikings say they have no plans to trade him.

"We look forward to Adrian re-joining the Vikings," the team said in a statement issued after the announcement.

Peterson was indicted on abuse charges after inflicting injuries on his four-year-old son with a wooden switch. He played the opener against St. Louis, then sat out the remaining 15 games of the season while tangling with the league over the discipline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Light Fettuccine Alfredo with Smoked Salmon and Dill

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Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Directions

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the fettuccine and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until just tender. Add asparagus during last 2 minutes. Drain and place in a large serving bowl. Cover to keep warm.

2. Meanwhile, in a saucepan off the heat, combine the stock, evaporated milk, mustard, pepper and garlic. Slowly whisk in the flour until smooth. Place the saucepan over medium heat and bring to a slight boil. Reduce the heat and simmer, whisking constantly for 4 to 5 minutes or until slightly thickened. Remove from the heat and whisk in the cream cheese and 4 Tbsp of the Parmesan cheese, whisking just until the cheese is melted.

3. Pour over pasta, add salmon, dill and remaining 2 Tbsp Parmesan cheese.

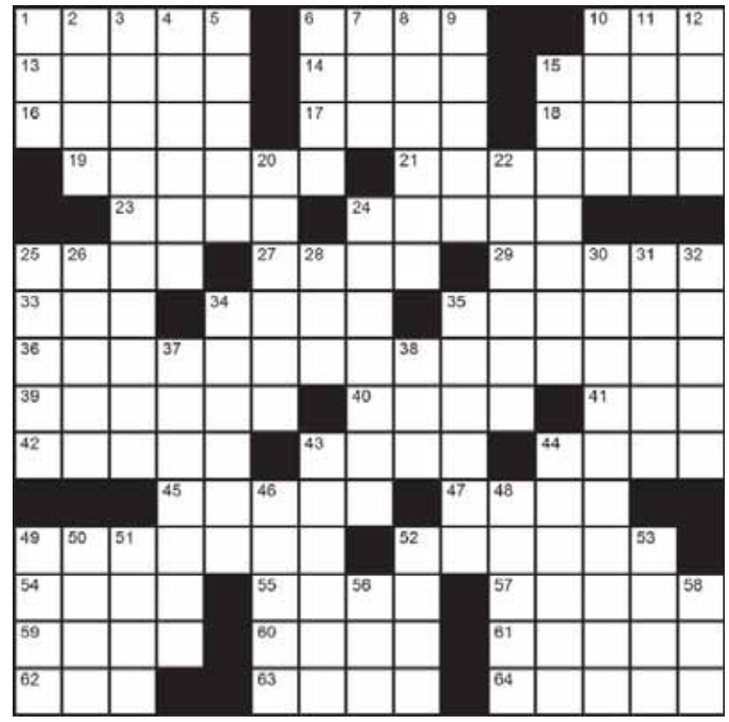
Ingredients
Serves 4
- 1/2 lb fettuccine
- 8 thin asparagus stalks, trimmed and cut into small pieces
- 1 cup cold chicken (or vegetable) stock
- 3/4 cup canned evaporated milk (2%)
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup light cream cheese (about 2 oz)
- 6 Tbsp grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 2 oz sliced smoked salmon
- 2 Tbsp chopped dill

Nutritional information per serving
- Calories 375
- Protein 20 g
- Carbohydrates 55 g
- Fibre 2.9 g
- Total fat 7 g
- Saturated fat 3.4 g
- Cholesterol 15 mg
- Sodium 390 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Fretful feeling
6. Barbera d'__ (Wine of Piedmont, Italy)
10. Progressive Insurance commercials employee's name
13. Singer Ms. Jones
14. Boyfriend
15. Gather
16. Debonair
17. Respiratory organ
18. Whale movie
19. Scornful
21. City in the North Cariboo area of BC
23. Grim
24. "The Brothers McMullen" (1995) star Edward
25. Falling out
27. Gin flavouring
29. Homemade salad dressing ingredient
33. Antacid brand
34. "The Secret of __ Inish" (1994)
35. Ground corn food staple
36. Now on stage at the Canadian Opera Company, The __ __ __ (More at #15-Down!)
39. Like a broken promise
40. King Eurytus' daughter whose hand in marriage was offered as an archery prize
41. Pot's top
42. Electrical pioneer Nikola
43. About: 2 wds.
44. Reuben breads
45. City in northern France
47. Tart
49. Capital of Iraq
52. The Skipper's vessel, with S.S.
54. Bread spread
55. Shield's centre knob
57. Painter Mr. Degas
59. Rush, office-style
60. Bug killer brand
61. Ms. Graff of "Mr. Belvedere"
62. Hill kind
63. Baie-Sainte-__, NB
64. The Red __ (RCMP dress uniform)

DOWN
1. Li'l reply
2. French pronoun
3. Largest city in BC's Boundary Country: 2 wds.
4. "Oh, puh-leeze.": 2 wds.
5. TLC's "Untold Stories of __ __"
6. With competence
7. Romanian currency
8. Chequing account place, in Quebec
9. Prognosticate
10. Common plant
11. Dainty fabric
12. Ring stone
15. Composer of the opera buffa at #36-Across
20. Luxurious locale
22. Salad ingredient
24. Built blaze
25. Counter, as a debater
26. Absurd
28. Philosopher, __-tzu
30. Pirate ship flag: 2 wds.
31. Slapstick comic Mr. Hardy, to fans
32. Requires
34. Covered the debt
35. USA: Congresswoman, Nancy __
37. Hotel lobby worker
38. HELP!
43. Neil Young song that goes: "I'm a lot like you were.": 2 wds.
44. __ Park, in Edmonton
46. Ms. Dern of "Wild" (2014)
48. Three Dog Night song bit: "__ __ the loneliest number..."
49. Ship
50. Too
51. Equipment
52. Fashion
53. Vera of wedding gowns
56. Trash-putting locale
58. Des'__, British R&B singer

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You have no intention of giving in just because someone in a position of power is on your case. Anyone who thinks you will just roll over and play dead today will learn the hard way that you can bite as well as bark.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
A few days from now the Sun will move into your birth sign and a new solar year will begin. Conserve your energy today and over the weekend – because you are going to need it very soon.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Someone you meet while on the move will be fun but are they trustworthy? The planets warn that you must not let your guard down because if you give away a secret about yourself today it won't be long before everyone knows about it.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
People come to you with their problems all the time, which is nice in a way, but unless you want the entire day to be taken up listening to sob stories you will need to draw a line.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Push any problems you have on the work front to one side and promise yourself that you will deal with them next week. The Sun's change of signs on Monday will sweep them all away and you won't actually have to do anything yourself.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Life may not be a bundle of fun at the moment but don't worry about it. The Sun moves in your favour in a few days time and once it does the smile will return to your face.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Have a good time today. Go out and enjoy yourself. But watch how much you spend and watch who you spend it on, because some of your so-called friends will bleed you dry if you let them.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Time spent planning is rarely time wasted, so find room in your busy schedule to look ahead and plan what you are going to be doing when the Sun moves into your opposite sign next week. Make it something you can do with other people.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look for a compromise solution to a dispute. Yes, you may honestly believe that you are blameless and that the other party should admit that fact and make concessions but it isn't going to happen.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let anyone tell you that certain things cannot be done. What seems difficult, maybe even impossible, at this moment in time will become much easier when the Sun changes signs on Monday.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
No matter how settled and secure you feel at the moment something will shake you up a bit over the next few days and that's good. It was never your destiny to take the easy or the quiet route through life.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Let someone you respect and admire know how much they mean to you. You have benefited a lot from their advice and assistance in recent weeks and it is only right that you acknowledge that fact.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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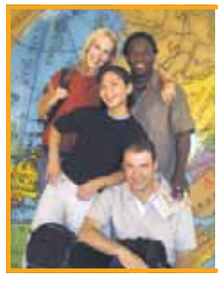
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